

The cover art depicts two young characters, Ellie and Riley, in a desolate, post-apocalyptic urban environment. Ellie, on the left, is wearing a dark jacket and a backpack, holding a handgun. Riley, on the right, is wearing a red jacket and has blood splatters on his face and clothes. They are standing in front of a wall with graffiti. In the background, a large, rusted metal structure, possibly a tank or a large gun barrel, is visible. The overall color palette is dark and moody, with a mix of blues, greys, and muted reds.

# THE LAST OF US™

## AMERICAN DREAMS

NEIL  
DRUCKMANN


FAITH ERIN  
HICKS

RACHELLE  
ROSENBERG









# THE LAST OF US™





Illustration by **FAITH ERIN HICKS** with **CHRISTINA STRAIN**



# THE LAST OF US™ AMERICAN DREAMS

WRITTEN BY  
**NEIL DRUCKMANN**  
AND **FAITH ERIN HICKS**

ART BY  
**FAITH ERIN HICKS**

COLORS BY  
**RACHELLE ROSENBERG**

LETTERS BY  
**CLEM ROBINS**

COVER AND  
CHAPTER BREAK ART BY  
**JULIÁN TOTINO TEDESCO**



President and Publisher **MIKE RICHARDSON**

Editor **BRENDAN WRIGHT**

Assistant Editor **IAN TUCKER**

Original Series Editors **BRENDAN WRIGHT**  
and **RACHEL EDIDIN**

Original Series Assistant Editors  
**IAN TUCKER** and **JEMIAH JEFFERSON**

Designer **TINA ALESSI**

Digital Production **ALLYSON HALLER**

Special thanks to **NICK McWHORTER** at Dark Horse and  
**ERIC MONACELLI** and **ARNE MEYER** at Naughty Dog.

#### THE LAST OF US™: AMERICAN DREAMS

The Last of Us™ © 2013 Sony Computer Entertainment America LLC. "The Last of Us" is a trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment America LLC. Created and developed by Naughty Dog, Inc. Licensed by SCEA. All rights reserved. Dark Horse Books® is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume collects issues #1–#4 of the Dark Horse comic book series *The Last of Us: American Dreams*.

Published by  
Dark Horse Books  
A division of  
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.  
10956 SE Main Street  
Milwaukie, OR 97222

DarkHorse.com  
TheLastOfUs.com

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Druckmann, Neil.

The Last of Us : American Dreams / written by Neil Druckmann and Faith Erin Hicks ; art by Faith Erin Hicks ; colors by Rachelle Rosenberg ; letters by Clem Robins ; cover and chapter break art by Julian Totino Tedesco. -- First edition.

pages cm

ISBN 978-1-61655-212-1

1. Graphic novels. I. Hicks, Faith Erin. II. Rosenberg, Rachelle. III. Tedesco, Julian Totino. IV. Robins, Clem, 1955- V. Title.

PN6727.D79L37 2013

741.5'973--dc23

2013026271

First print edition: October 2013  
Digital ISBN: 978-1-62115-813-4


**NEIL HANKERSON** Executive Vice President **TOM WEDDLE** Chief Financial Officer **RANDY STRADLEY** Vice President of Publishing **MICHAEL MARTENS** Vice President of Book Trade Sales **ANITA NELSON** Vice President of Business Affairs **SCOTT ALLIE** Editor in Chief **MATT PARKINSON** Vice President of Marketing **DAVID SCROGGY** Vice President of Product Development **DALE LAFOUNTAIN** Vice President of Information Technology **DARLENE VOGEL** Senior Director of Print, Design, and Production **KEN LIZZI** General Counsel **DAVEY ESTRADA** Editorial Director **CHRIS WARNER** Senior Books Editor **DIANA SCHUTZ** Executive Editor **CARY GRAZZINI** Director of Print and Development **LIA RIBACCHI** Art Director **CARA NIECE** Director of Scheduling **TIM WIESCH** Director of International Licensing **MARK BERNARDI** Director of Digital Publishing



# CHAPTER ONE

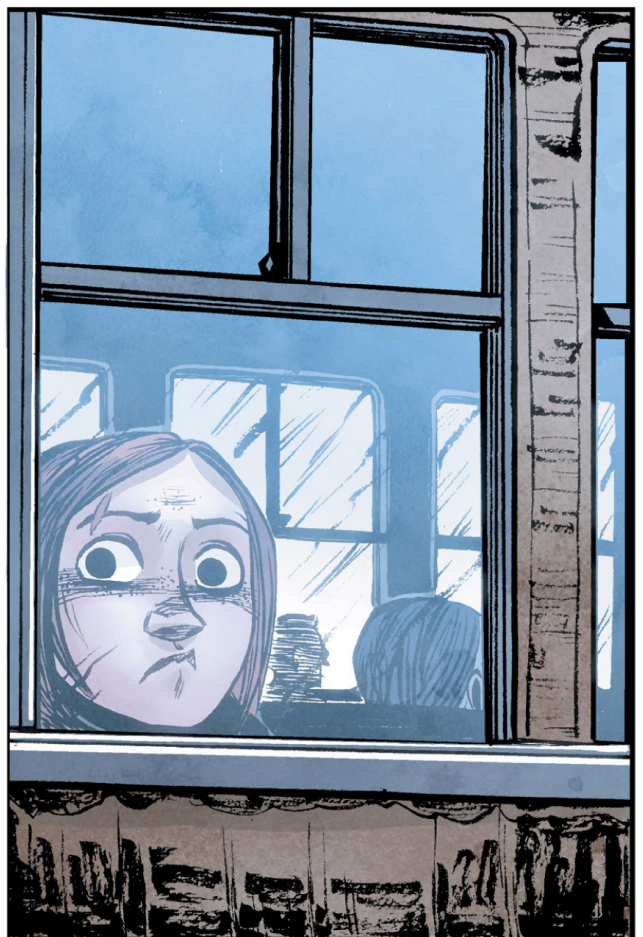
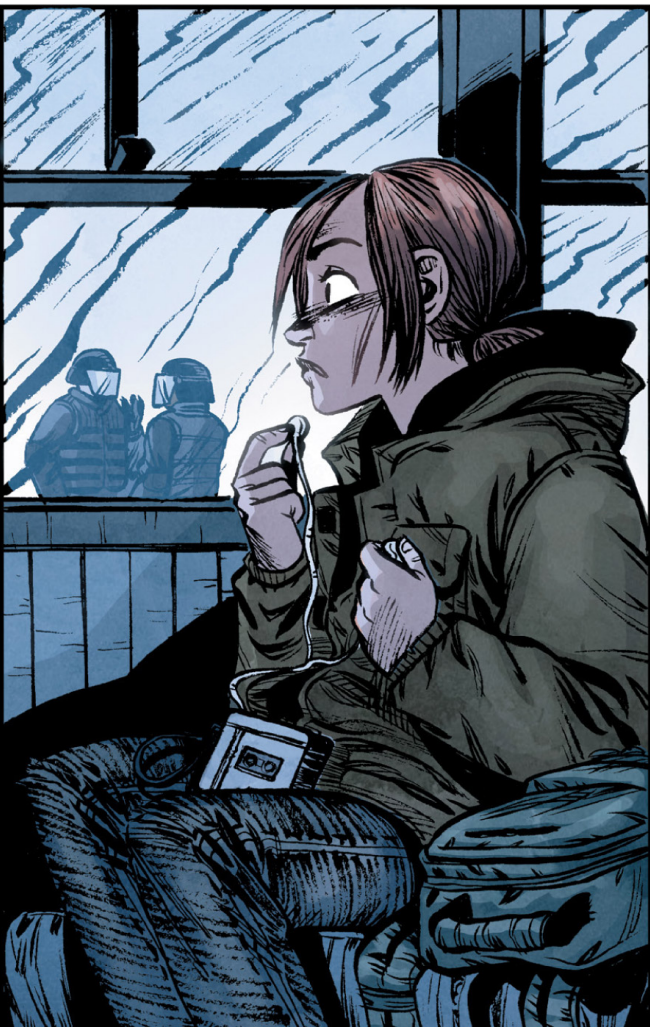
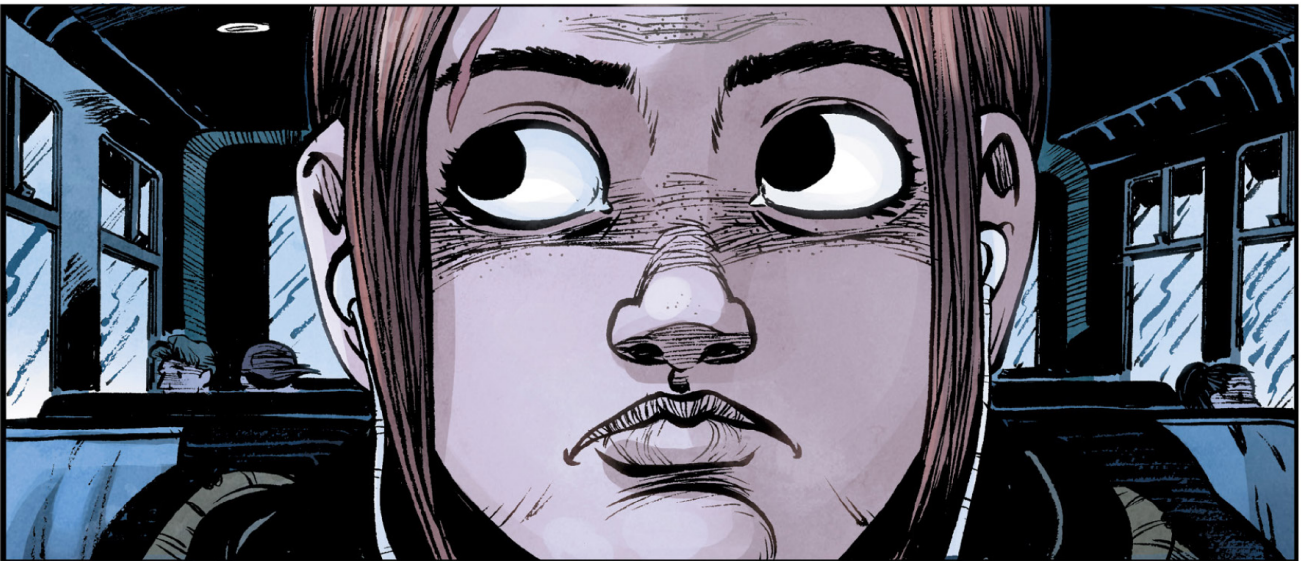




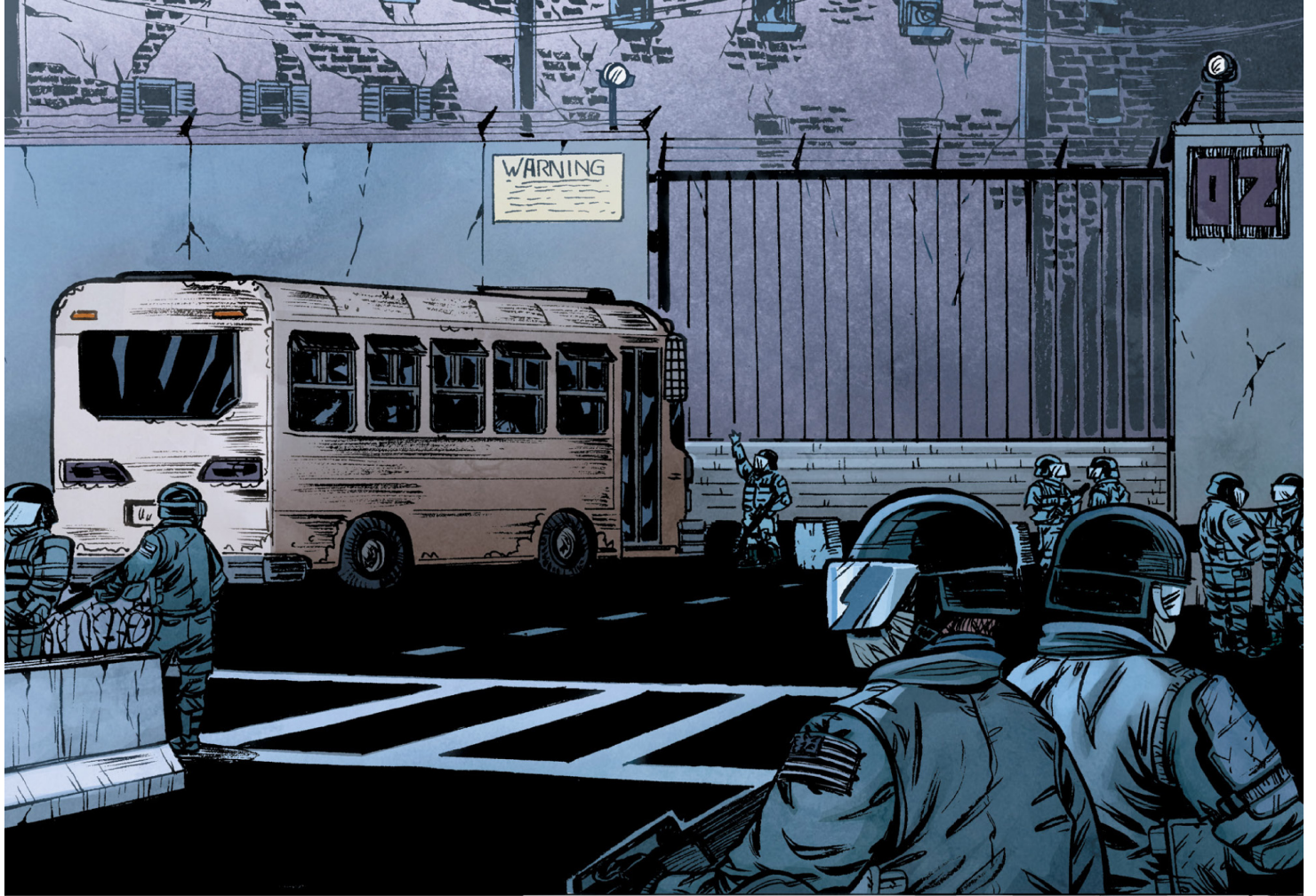


This story takes place before the events of the game ***The Last of Us***.

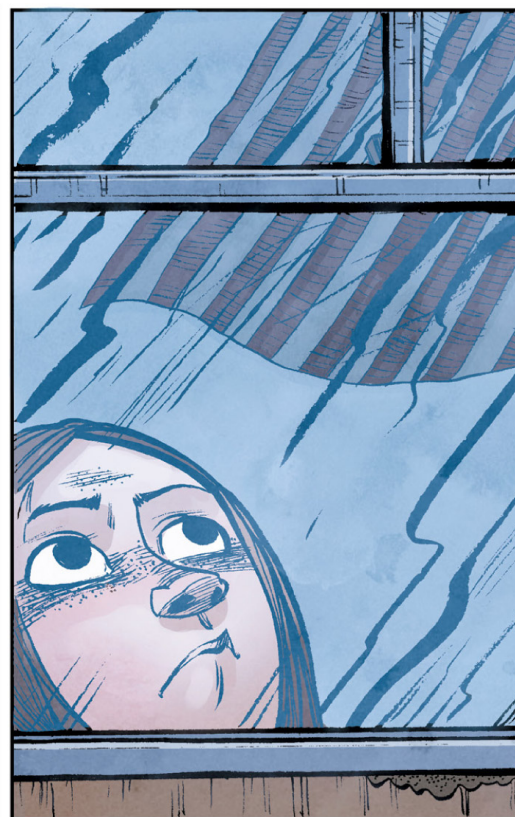
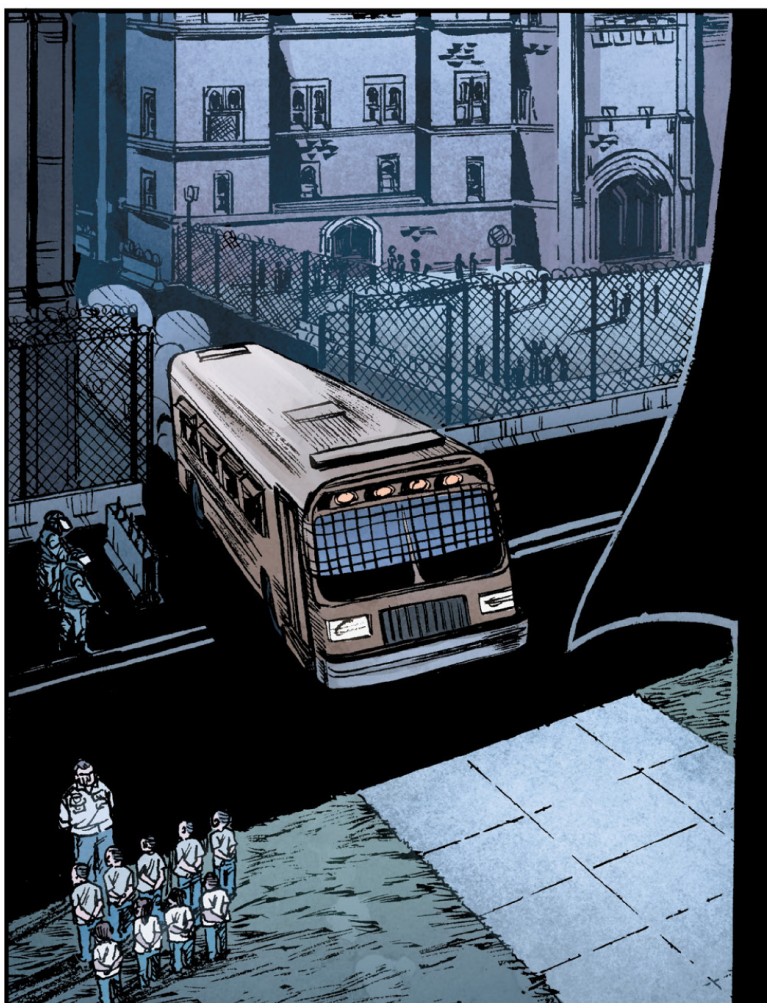
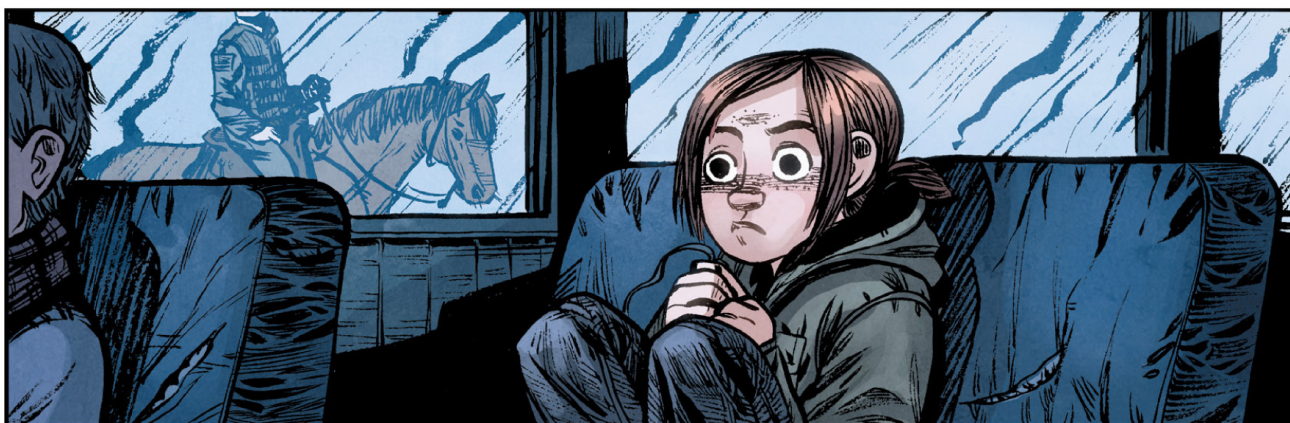




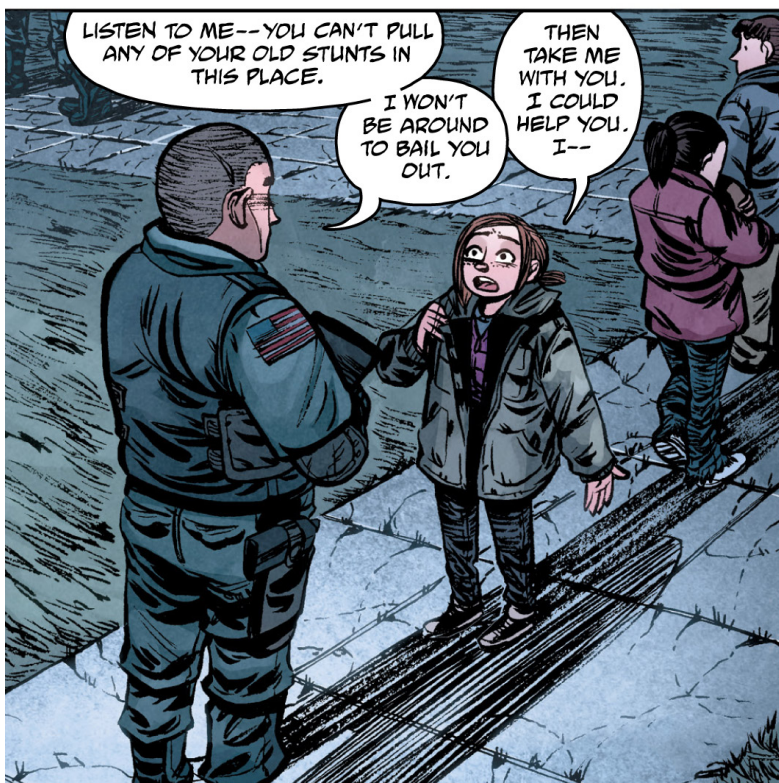




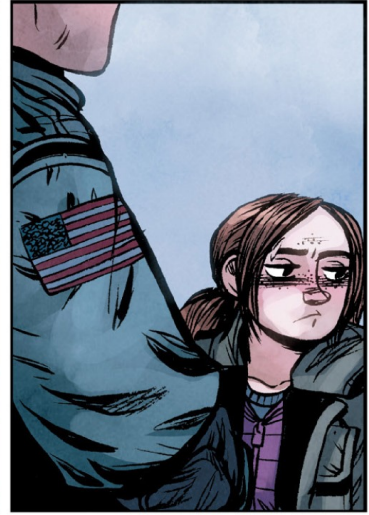












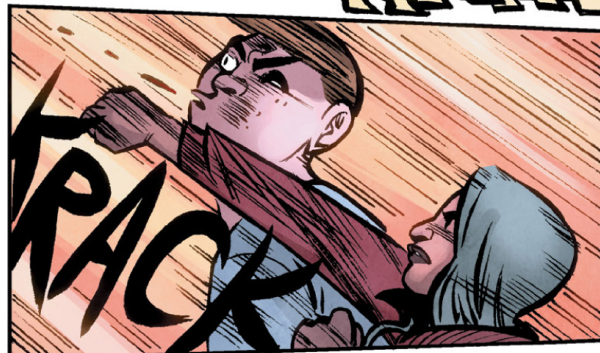




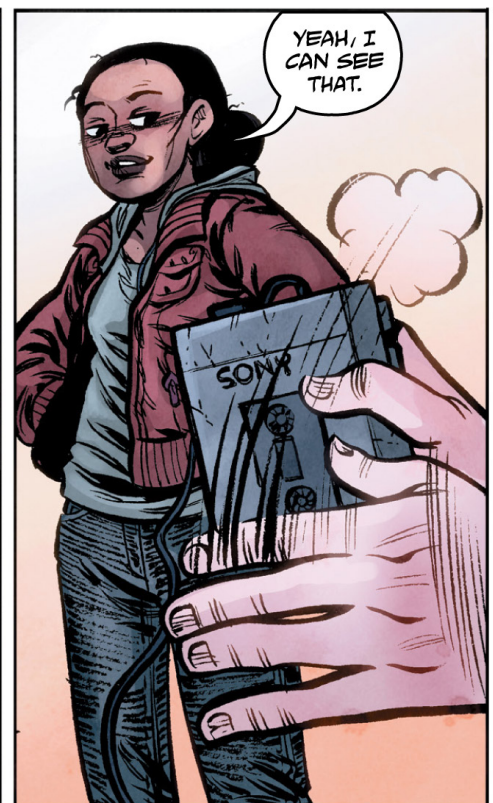
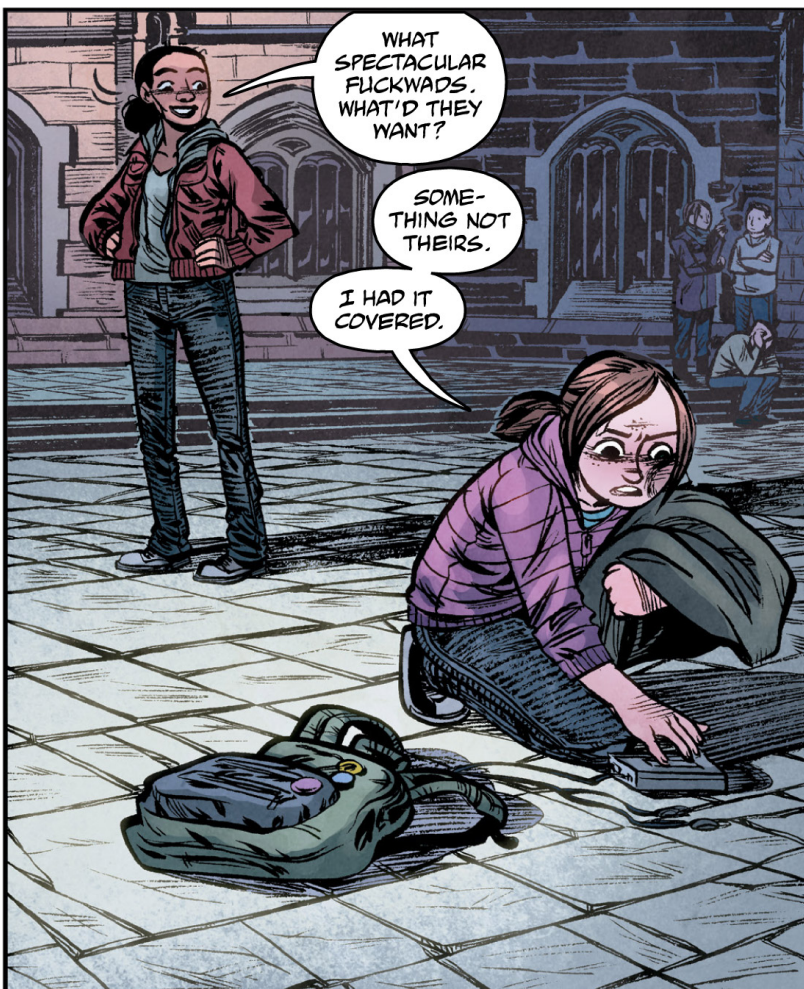
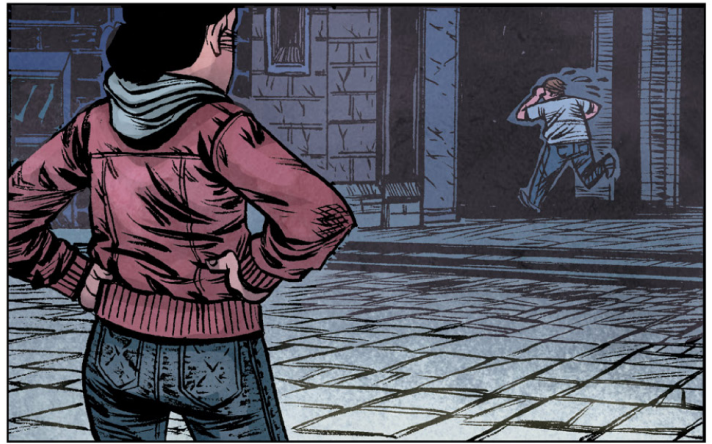
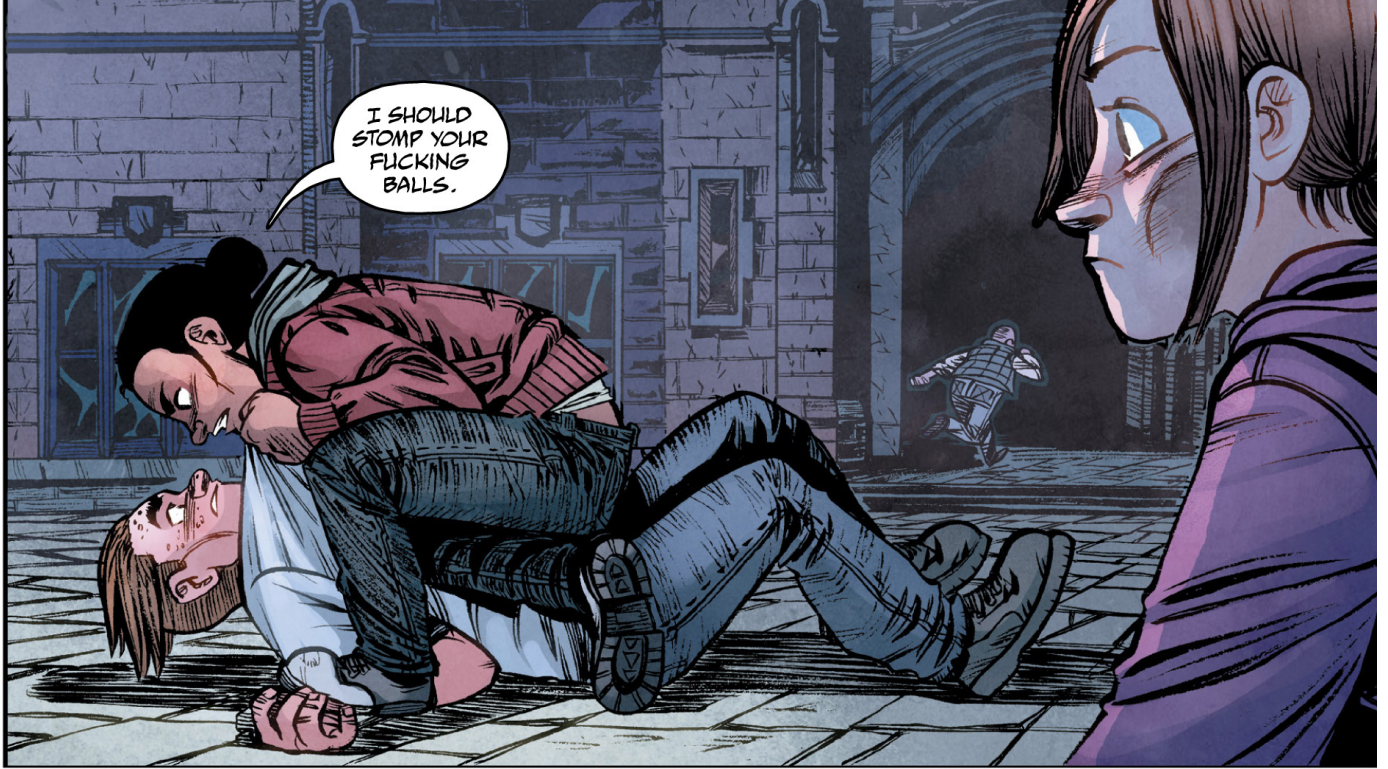




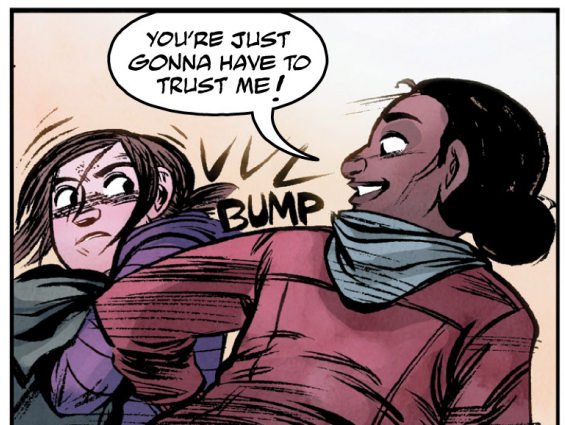
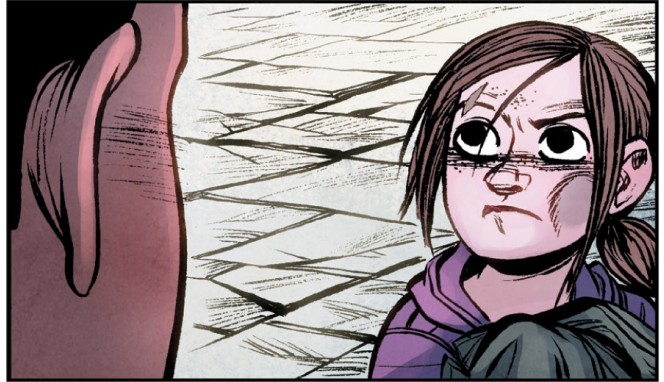




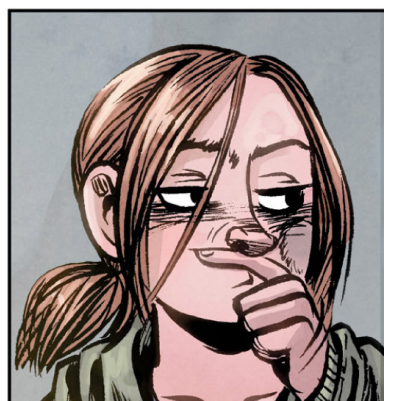
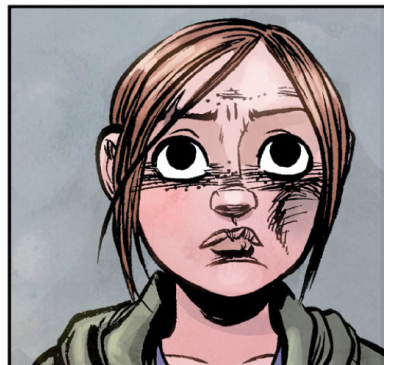




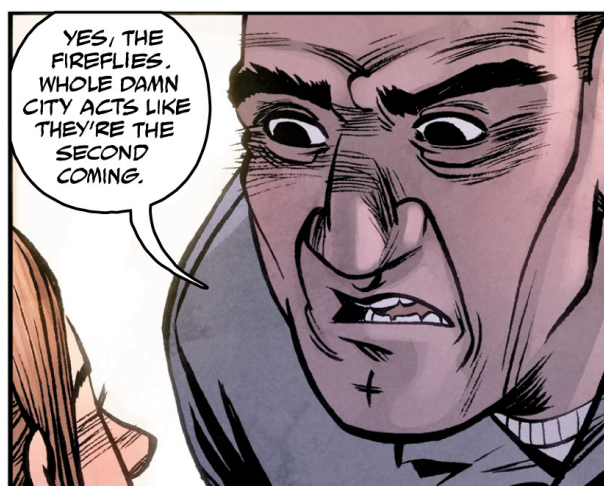
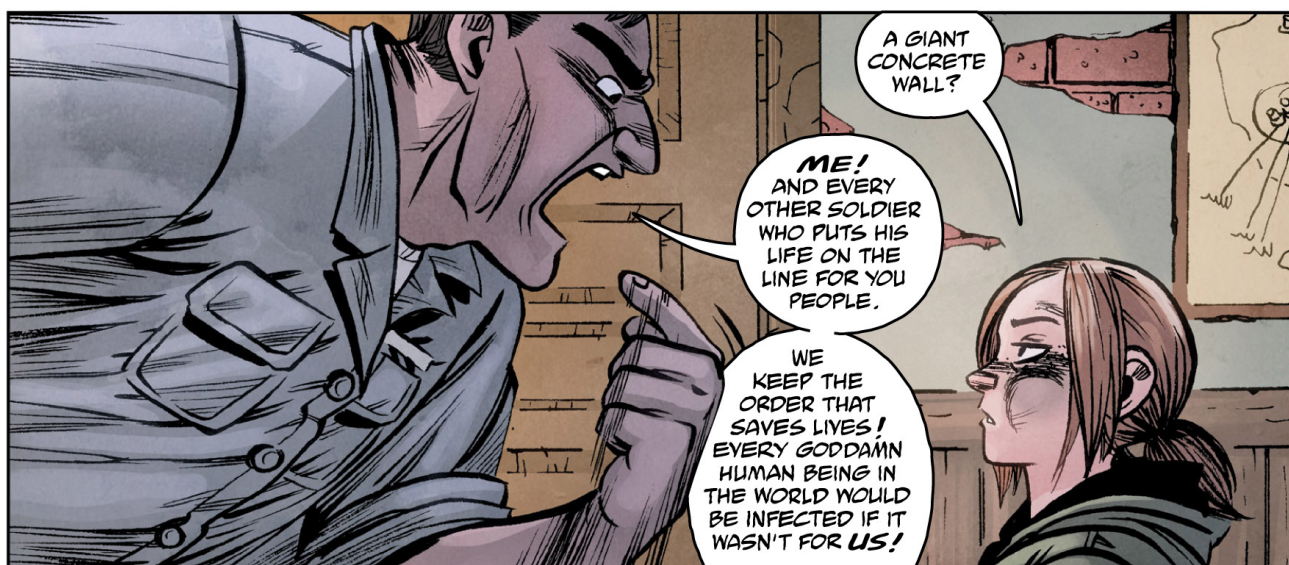




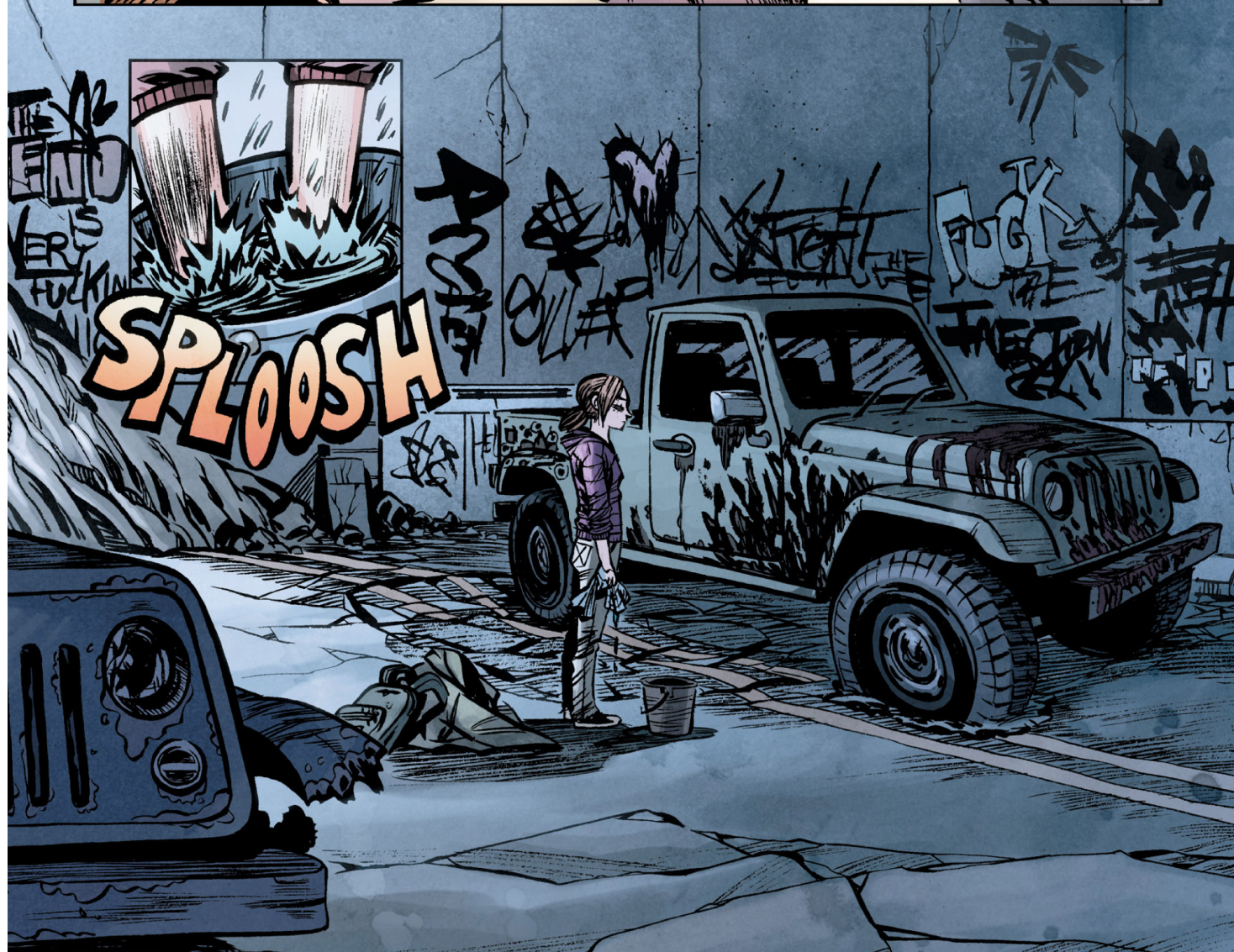
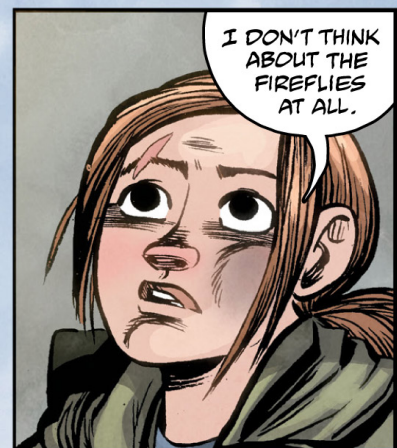




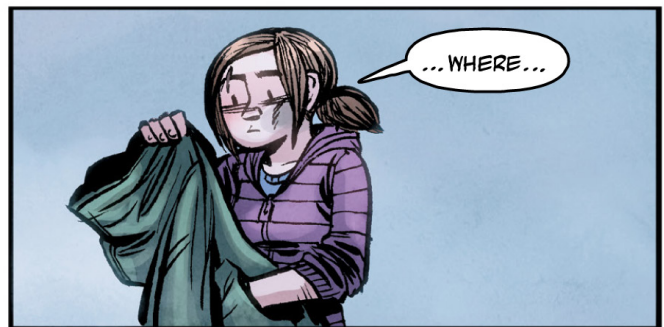
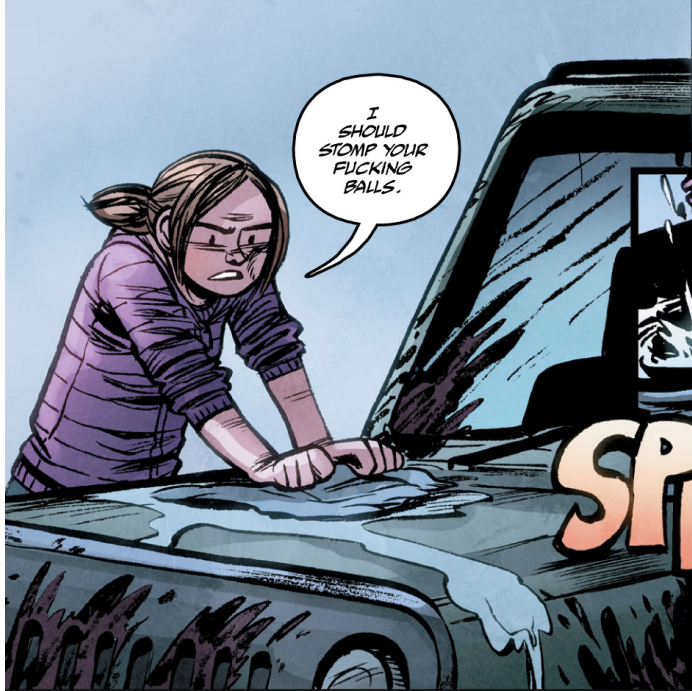




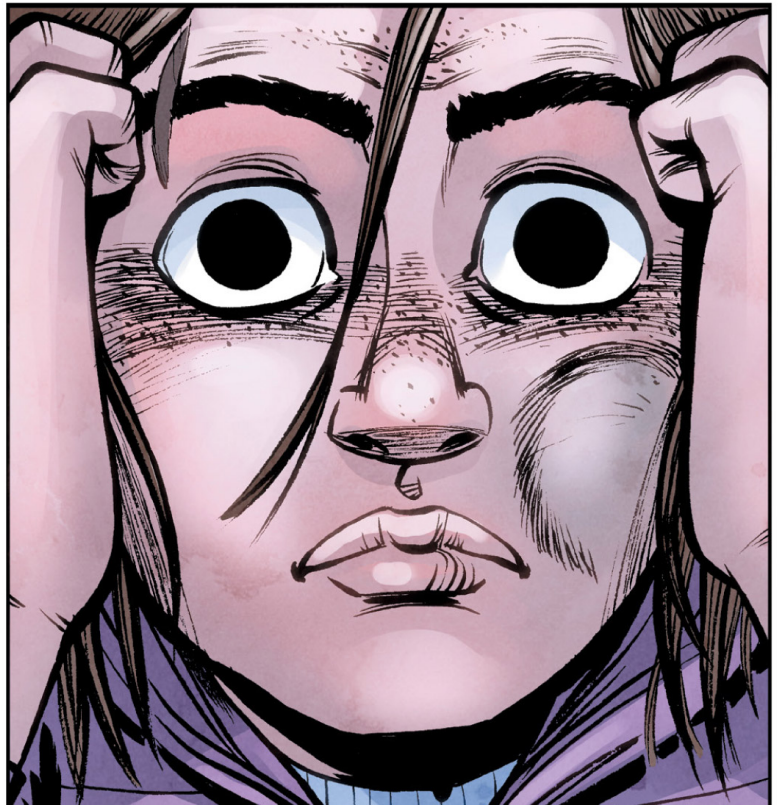
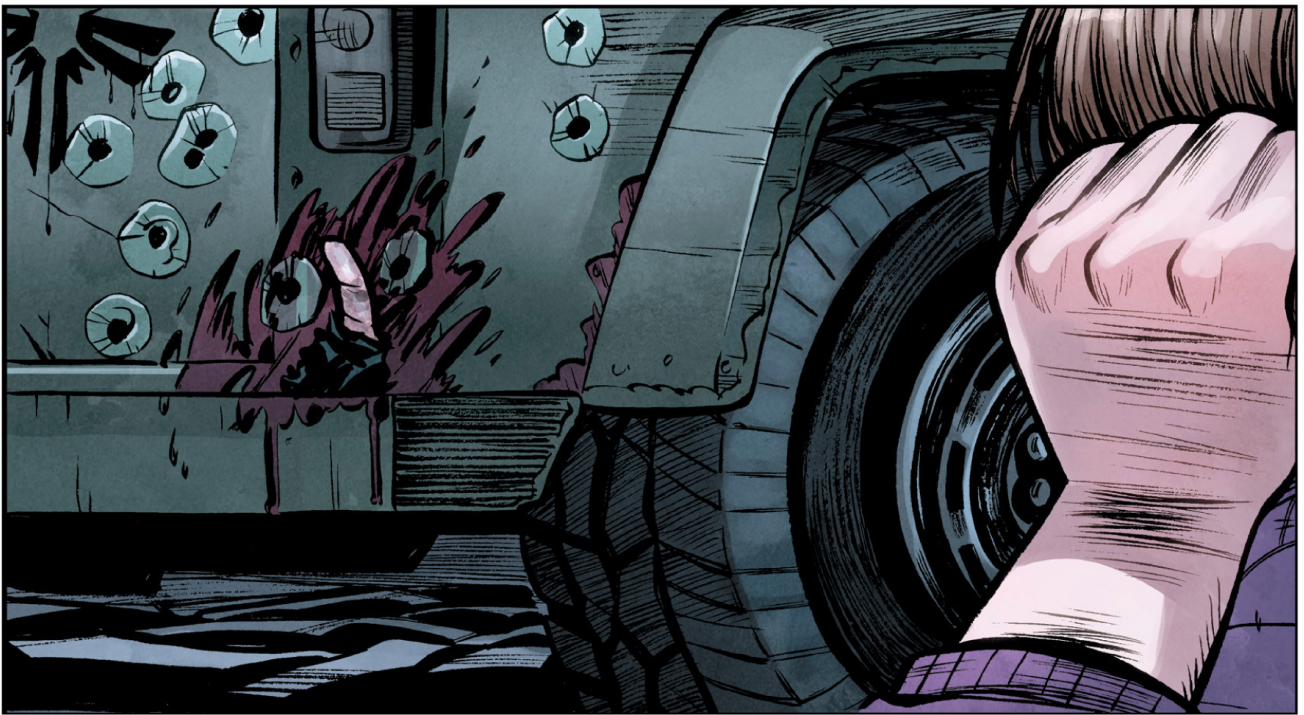
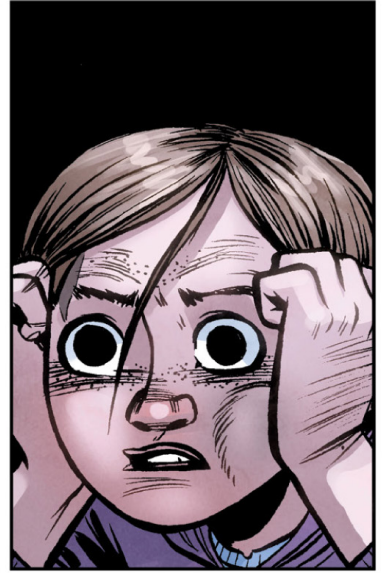
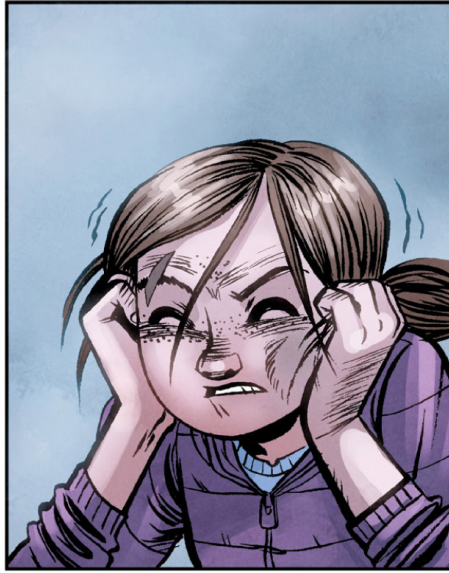








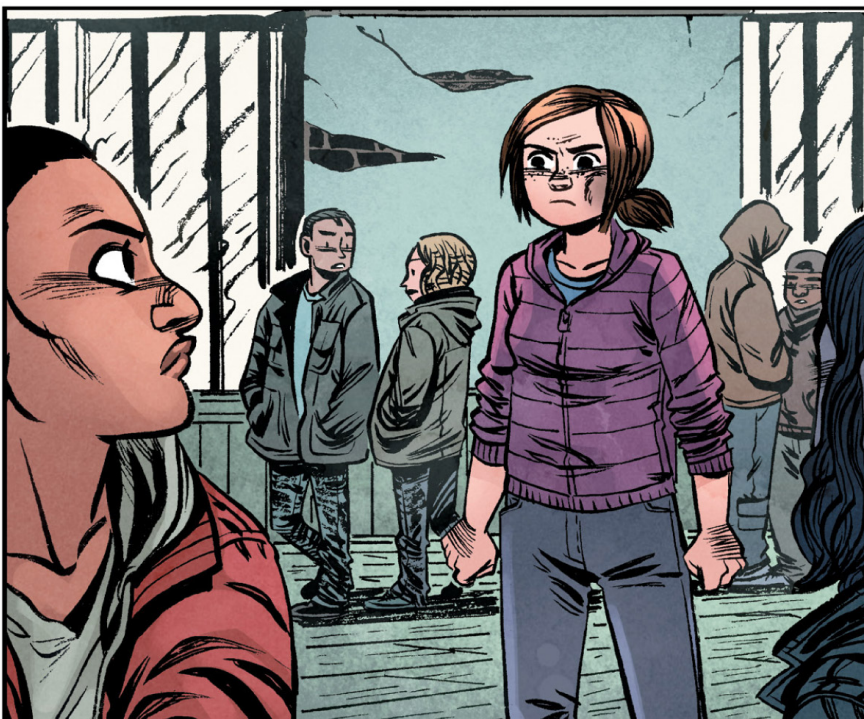
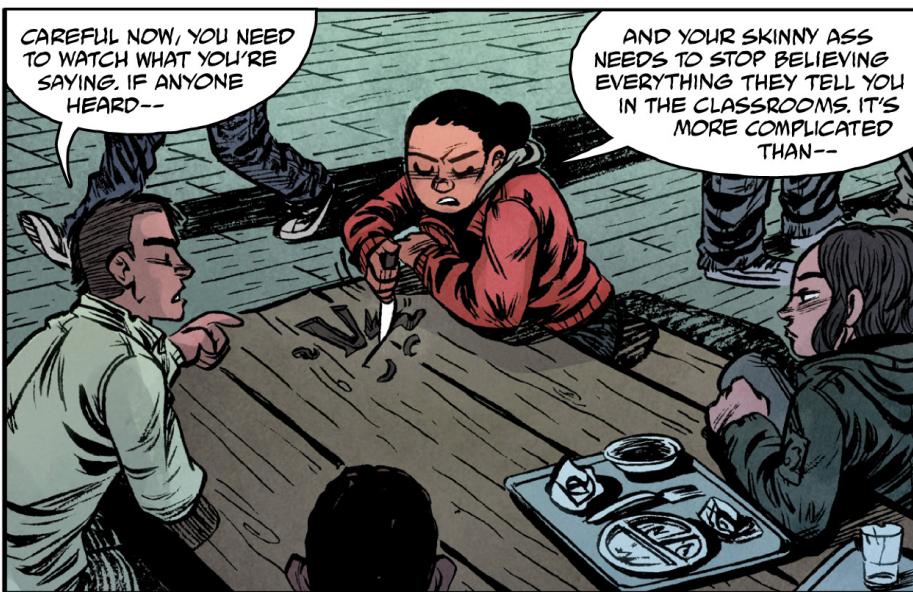




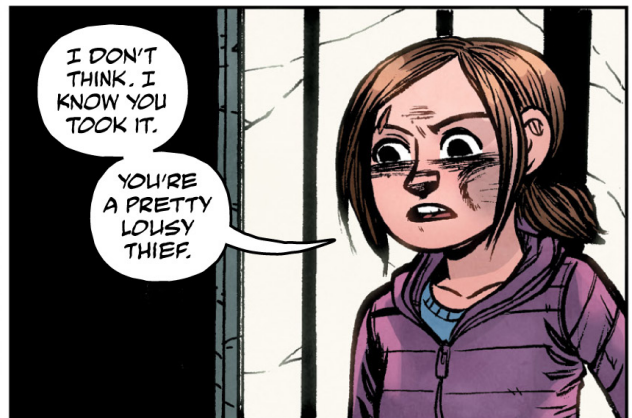




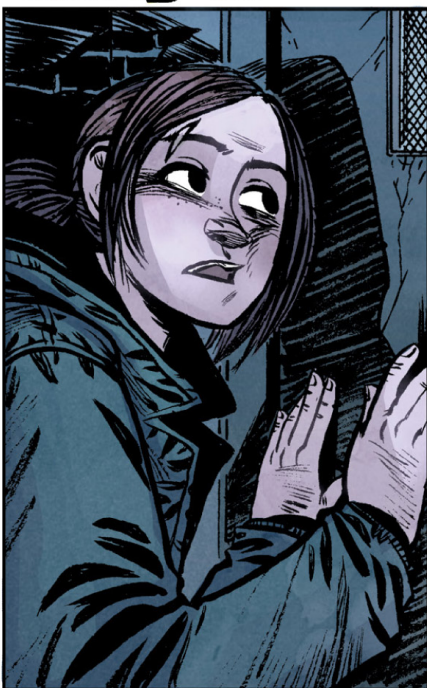
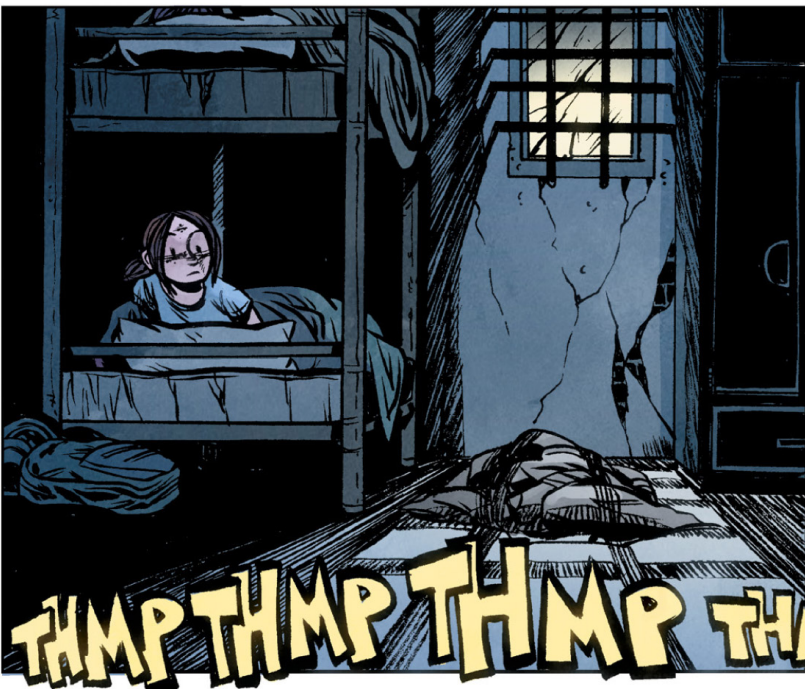
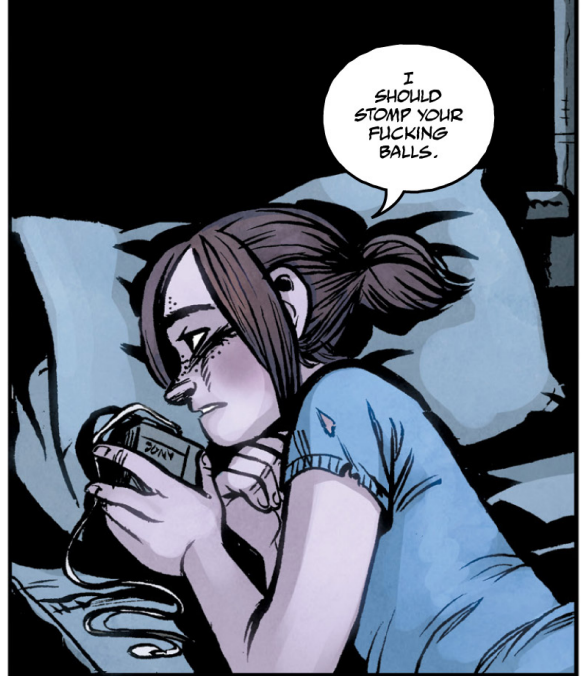




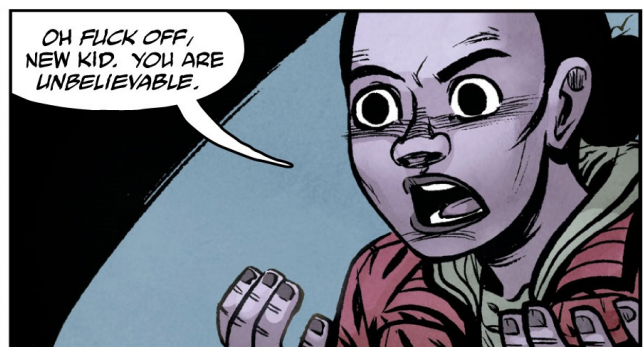
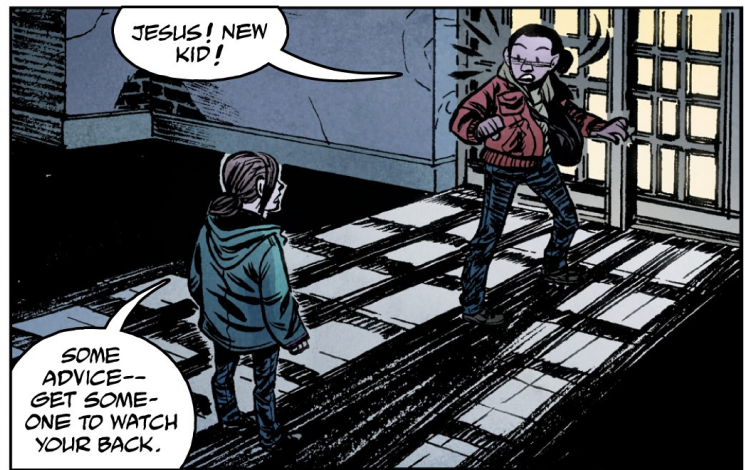
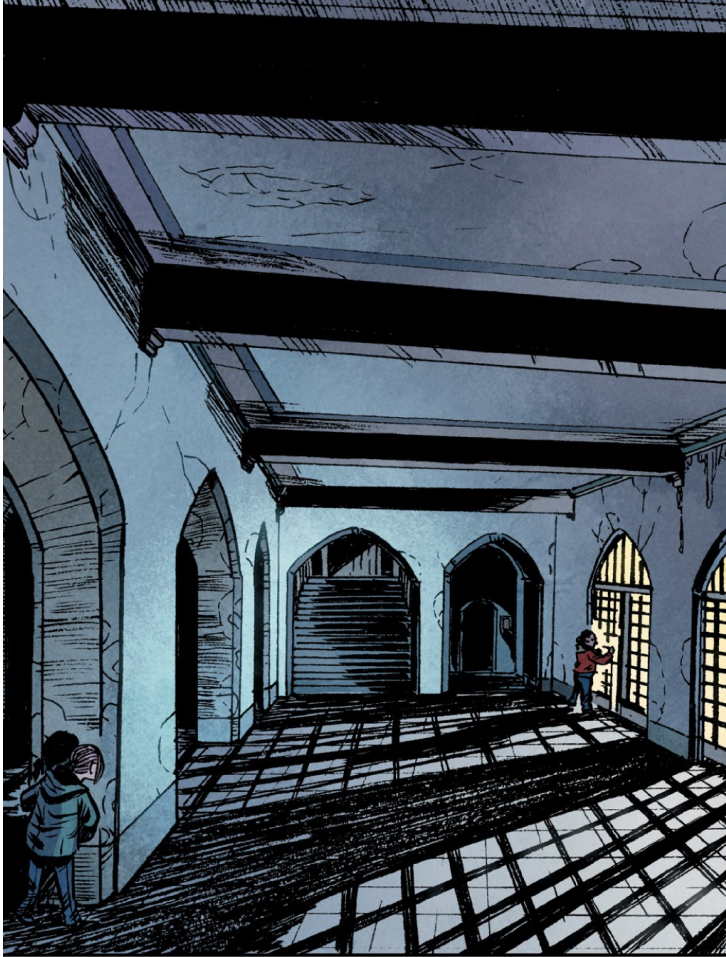




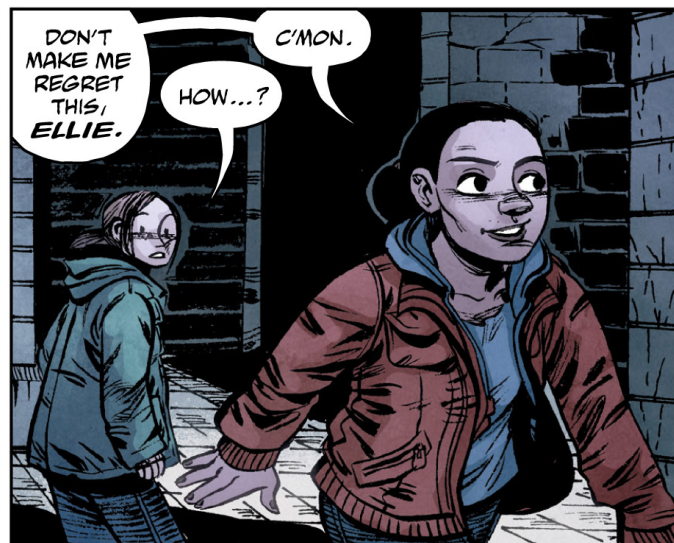
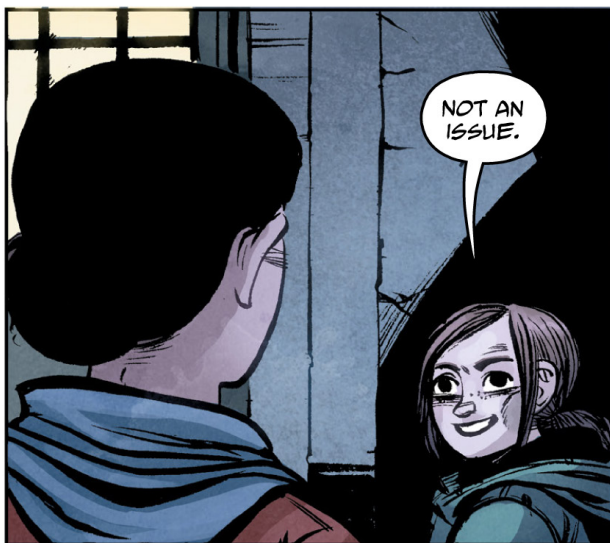




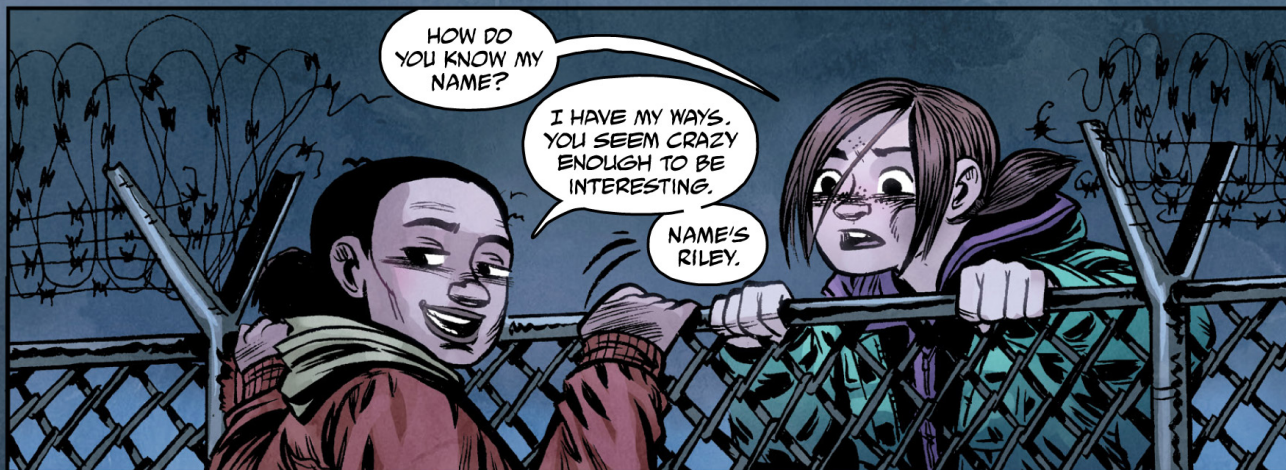














## CHAPTER TWO







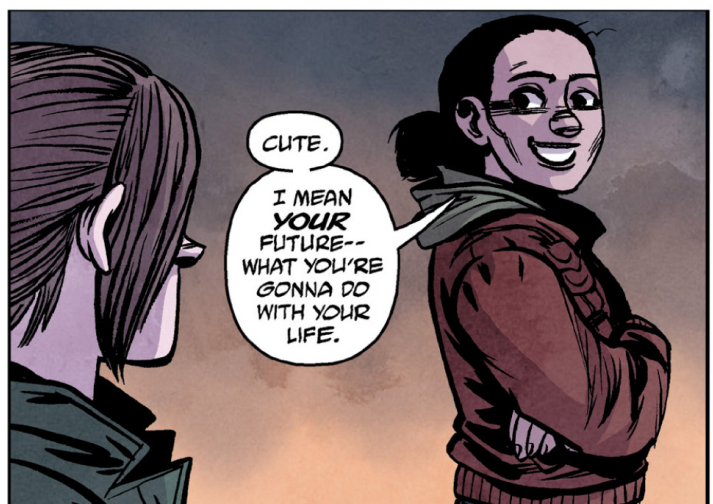
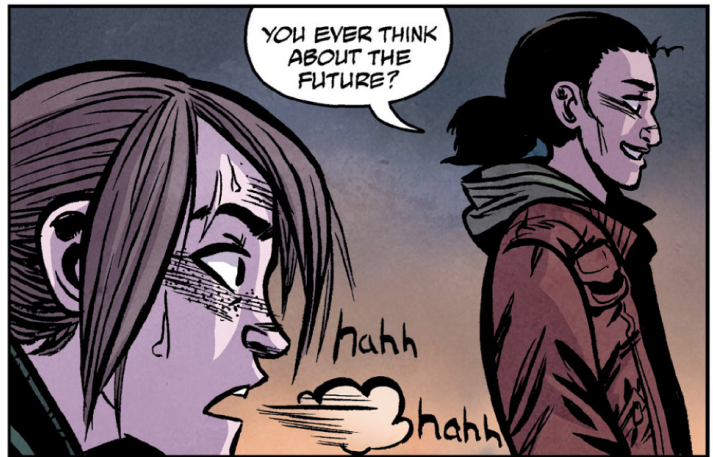
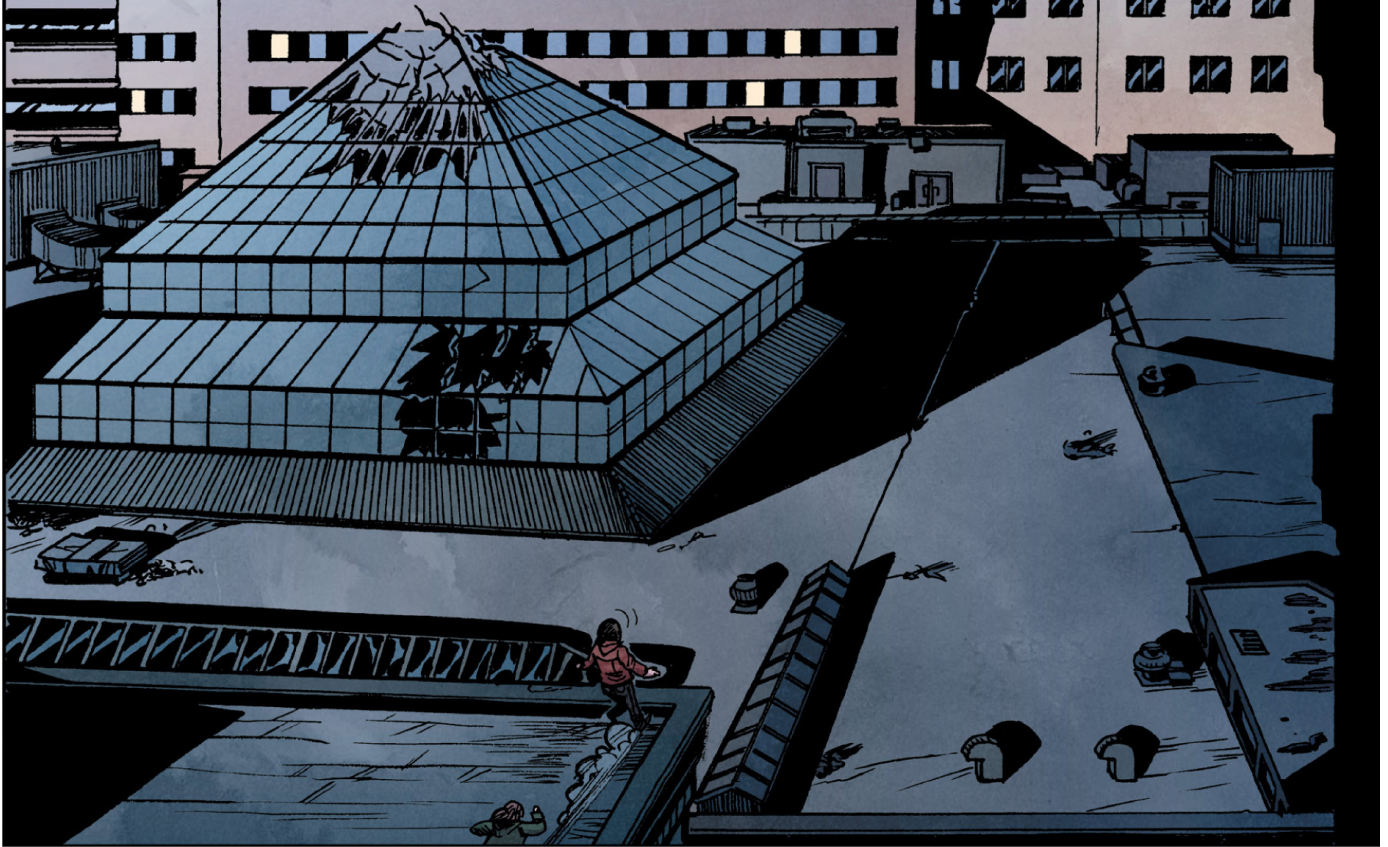




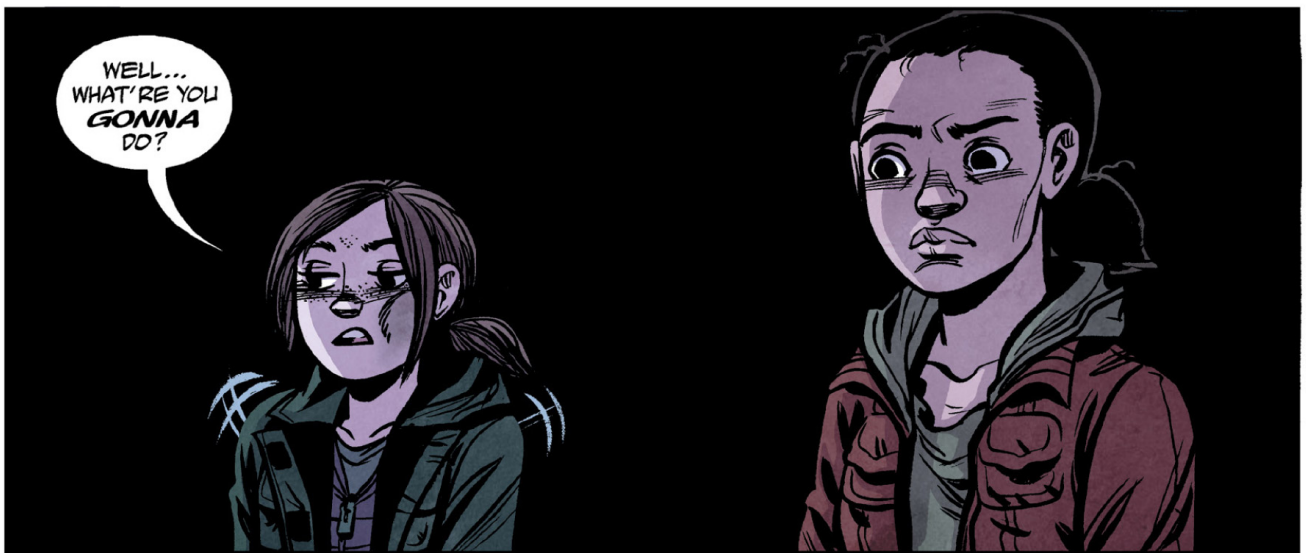








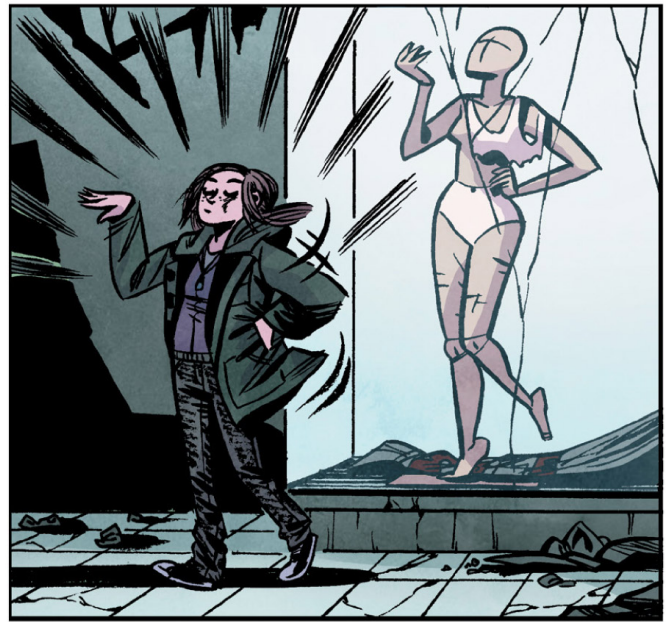
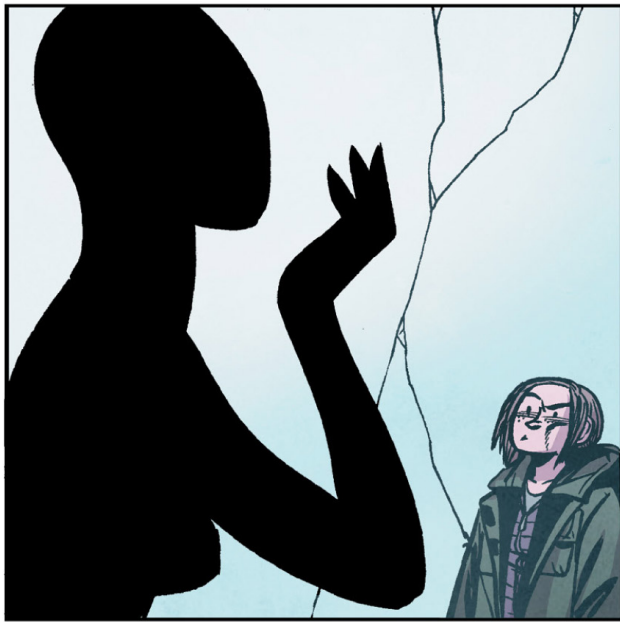
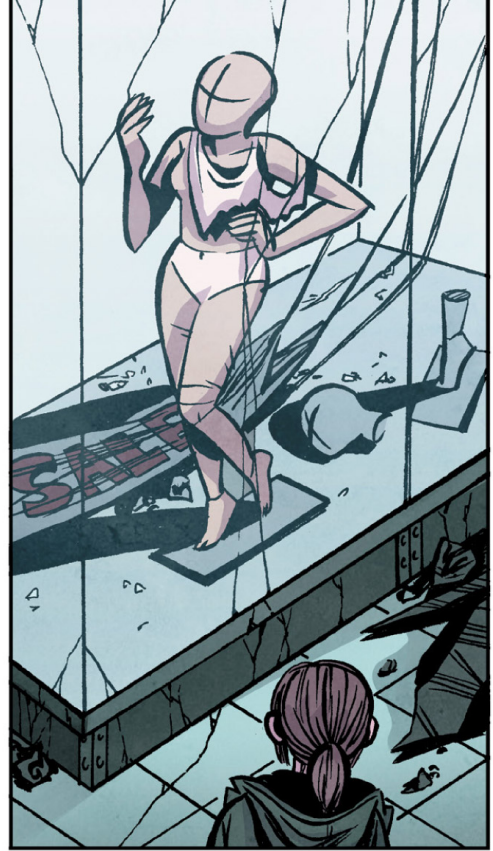




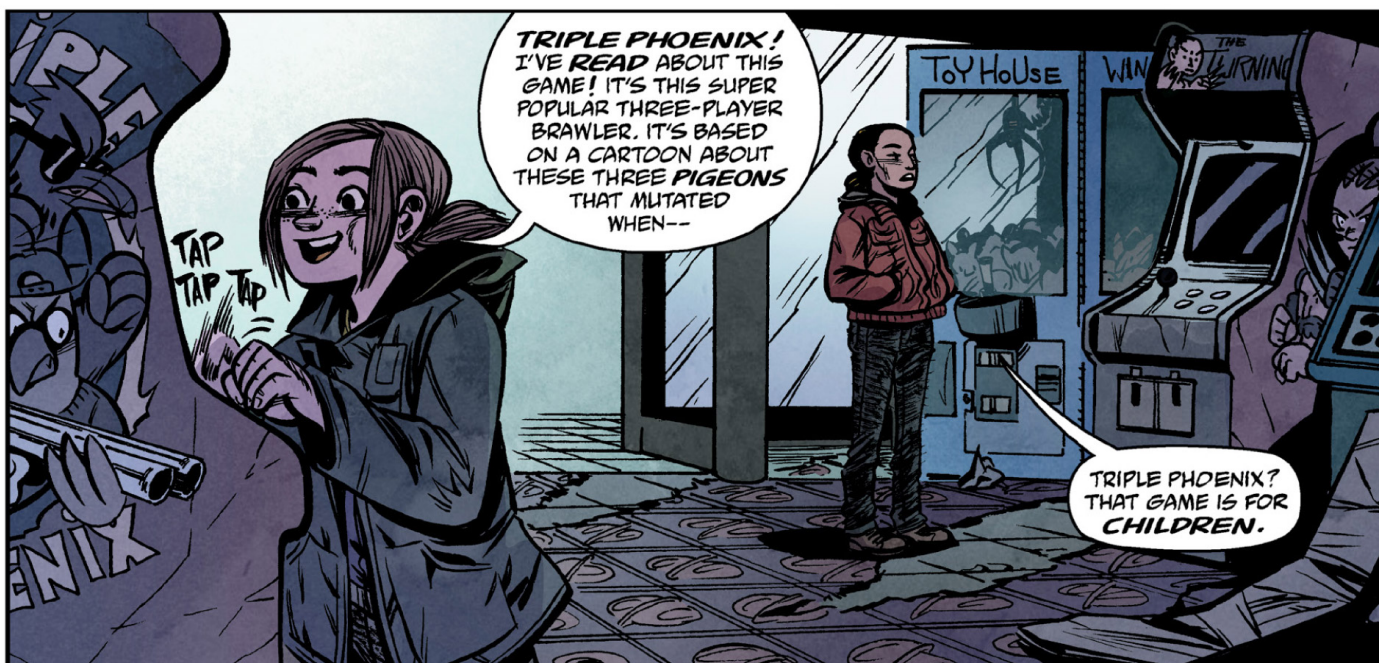




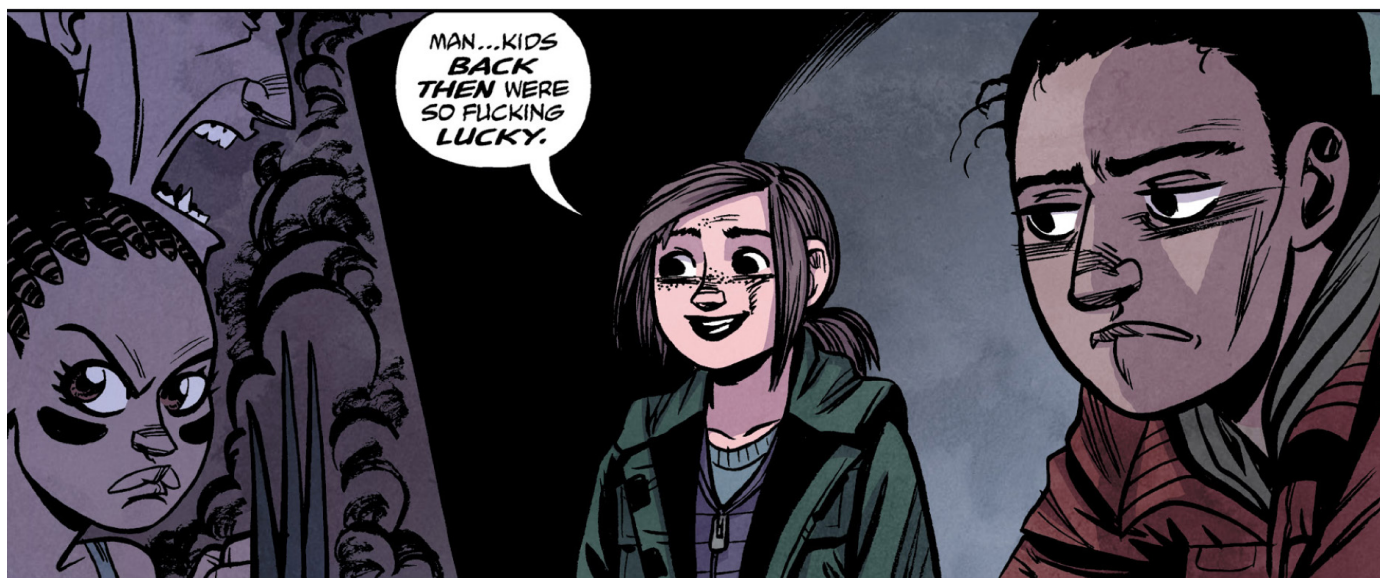




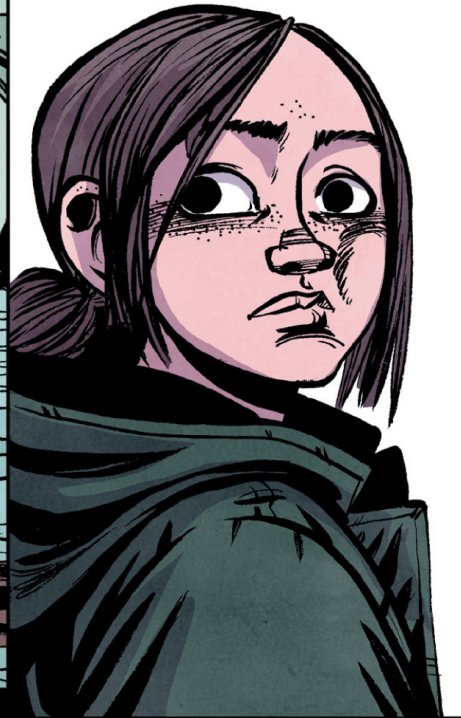




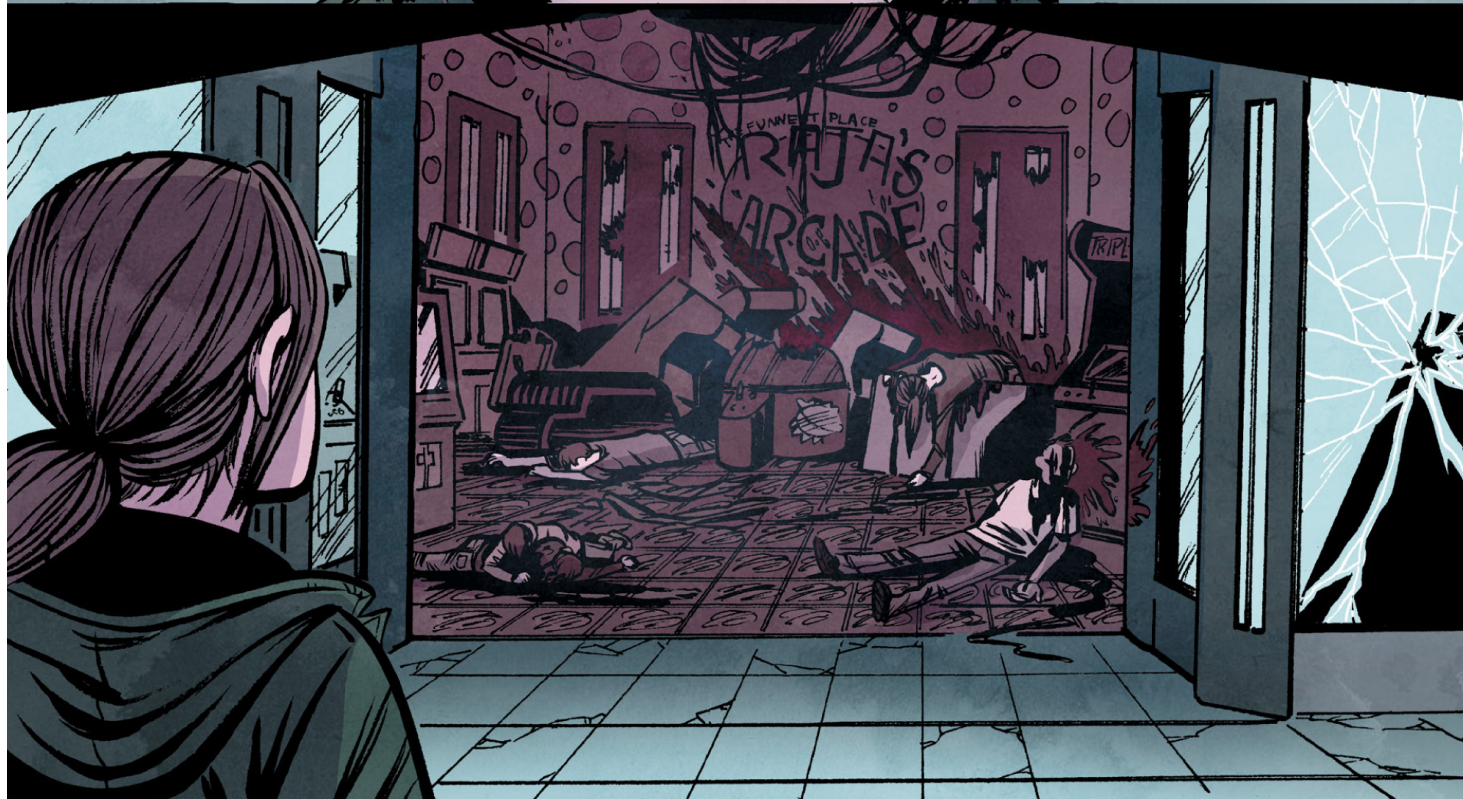




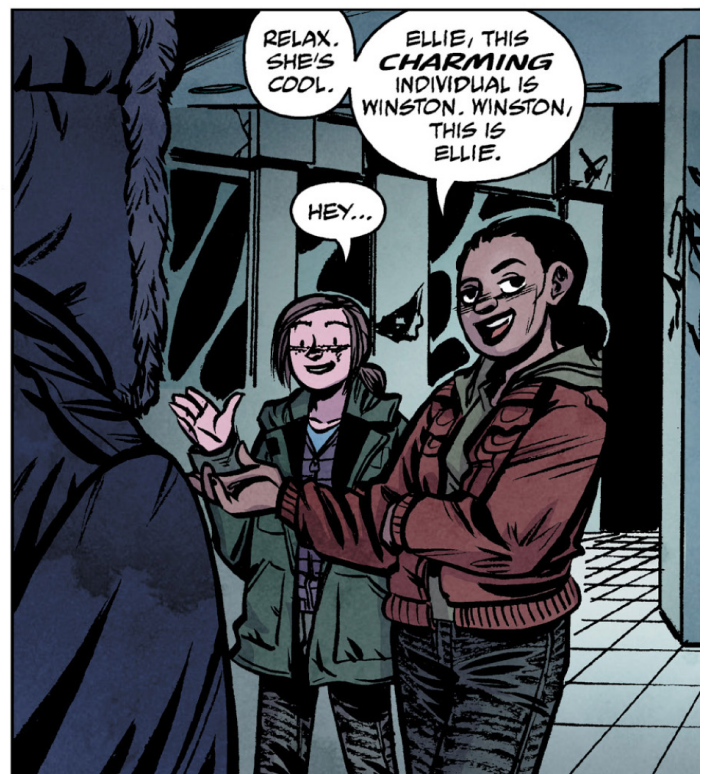
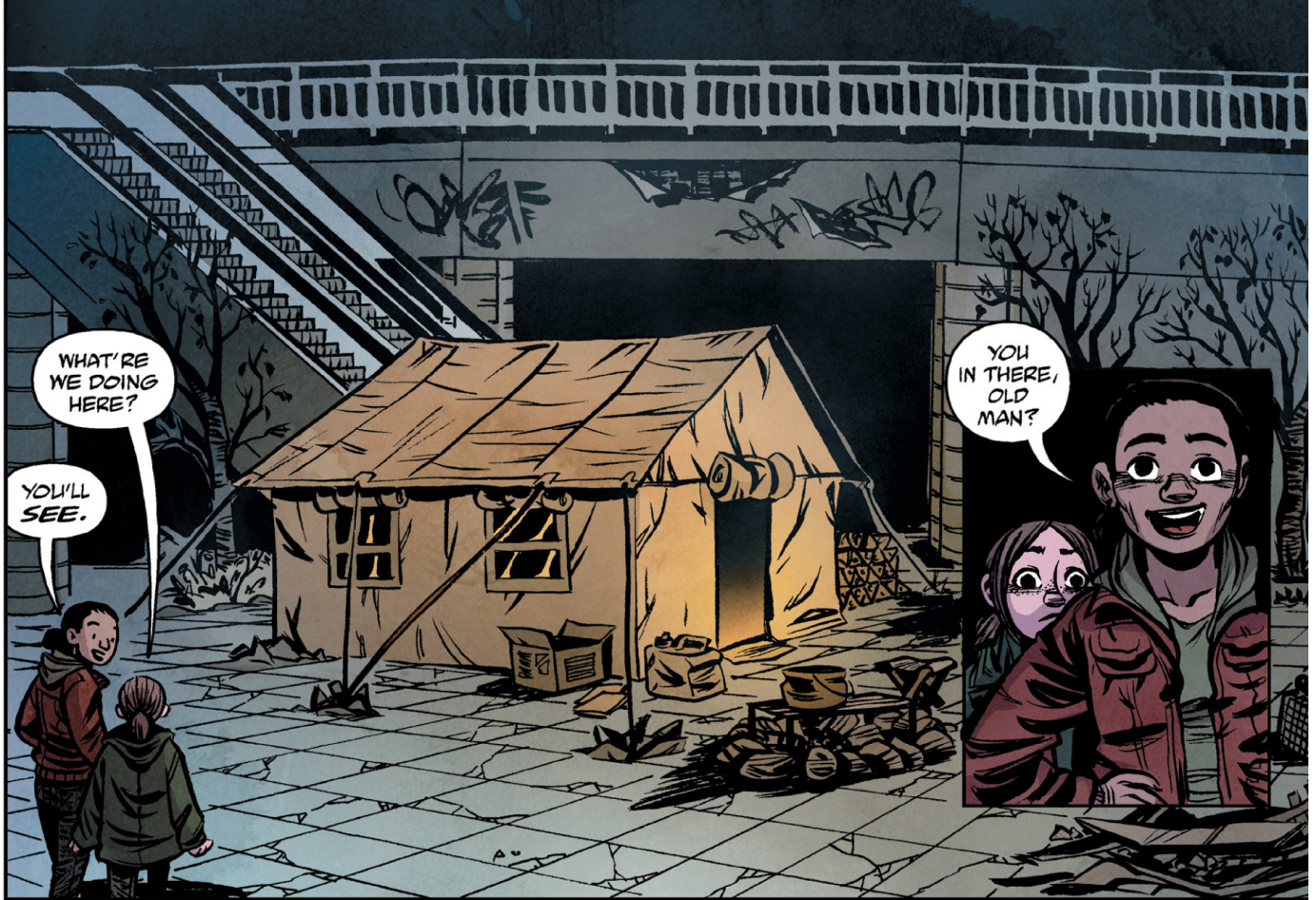
















YOU  
AT LEAST  
**BRING ME**  
A LITTLE SOME-  
THING?



**BOOSH!**  
COURTESY  
OF HEAD ASS-  
HOLE AT THE  
SCHOOL.

I'M SURE  
HE **MEANT**  
TO GIVE IT TO YOU  
EVENTUALLY, FOR  
ALL YOUR **HARD**  
**WORK** PROTECTING  
THIS **SHITHOLE**.



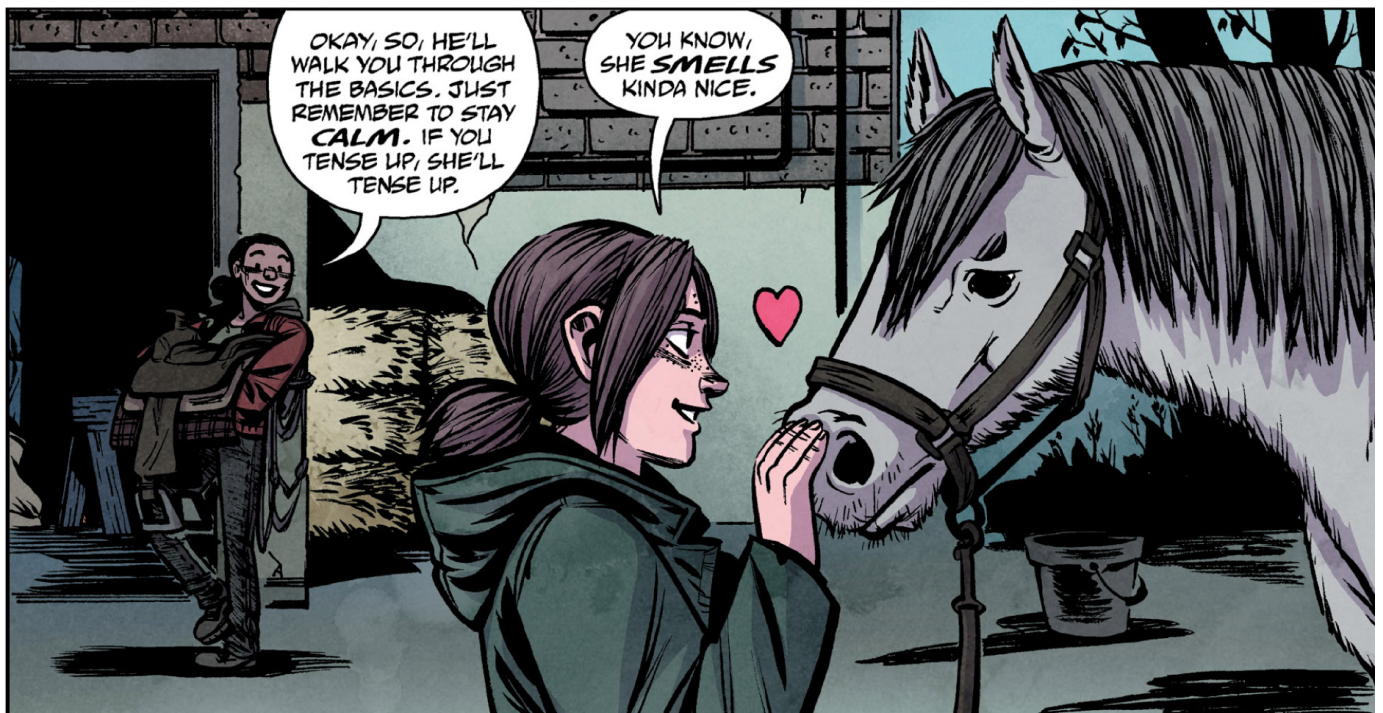
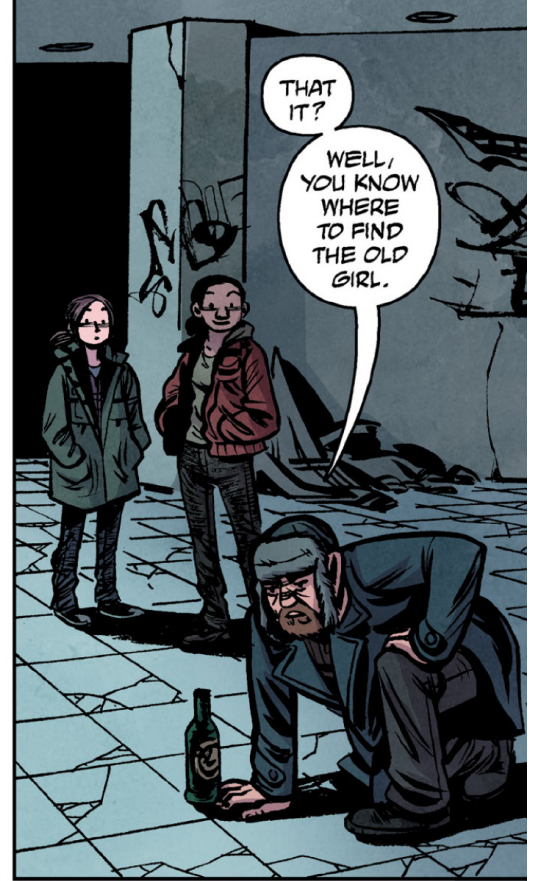
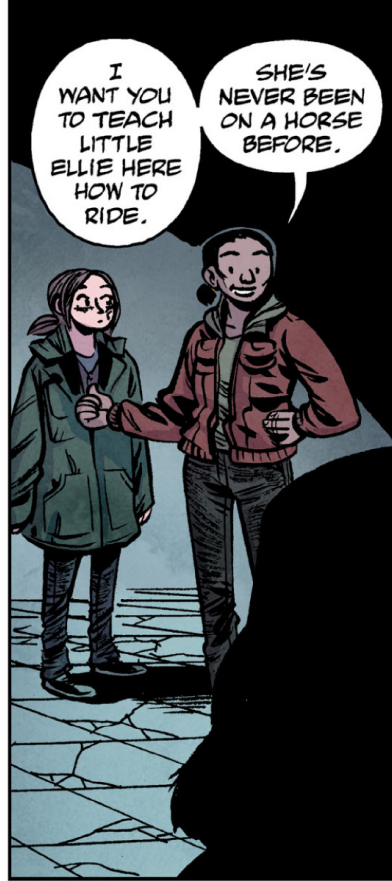
GLENFIDDICH  
SOLERA RESERVE  
FIFTEEN-YEAR  
SINGLE MALT, ALL  
THE WAY FROM  
SCOTLAND...



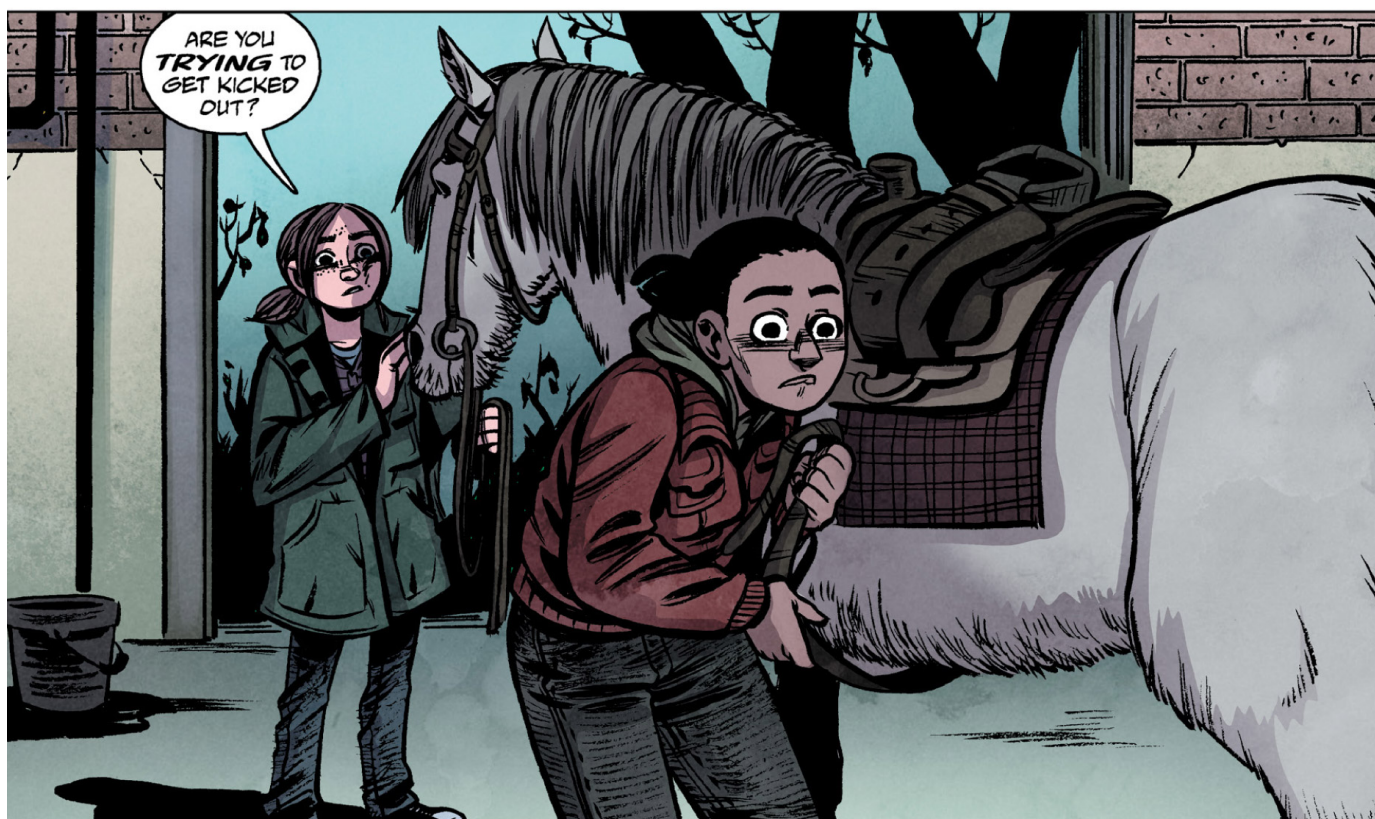
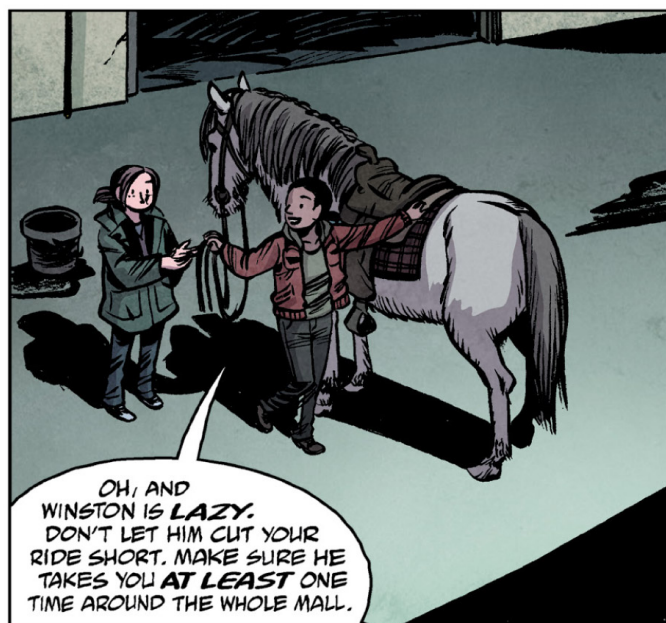
FUCK THE  
INFECTED FOR  
**ALL TIME**  
FOR ROBBIN'  
ME OF SUCH  
WONDERFUL  
THINGS.



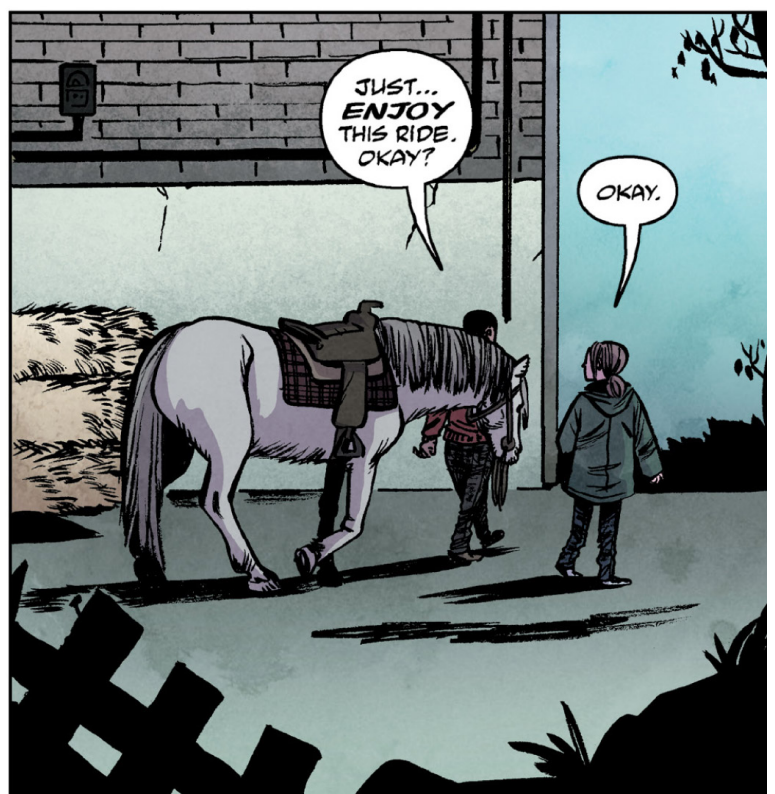
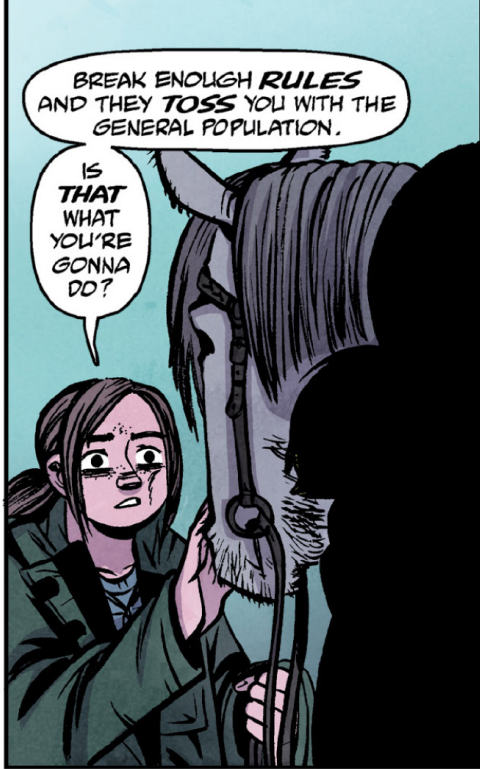




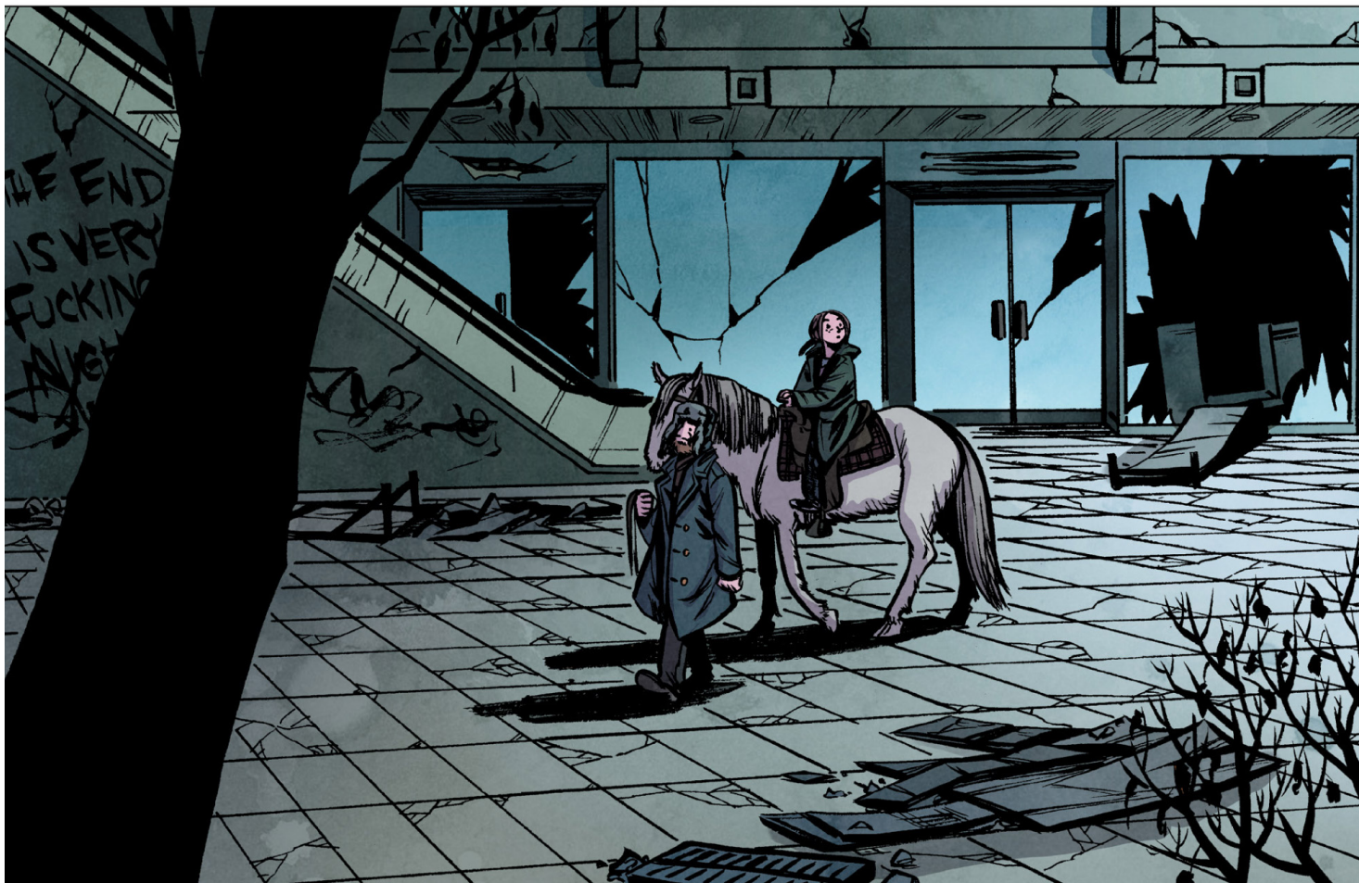
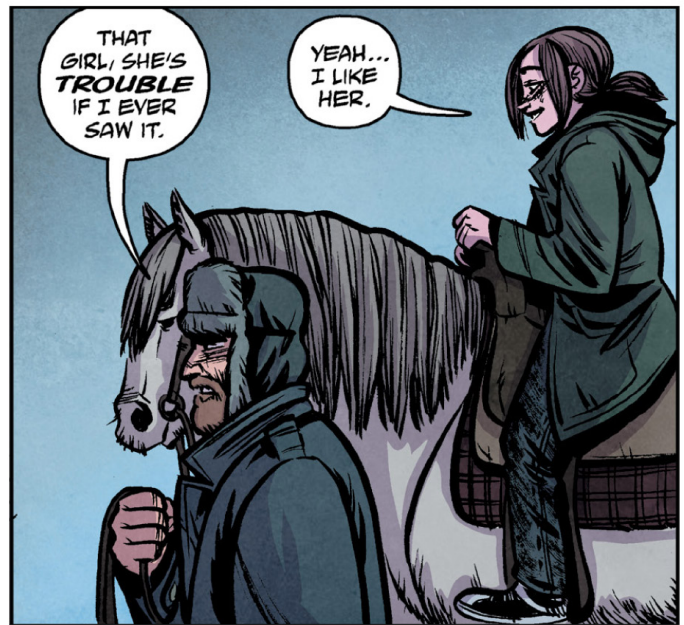




















WHAT WAS THIS PLACE **LIKE?** BEFORE THE INFECTION.

WELL, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I DID **MY SHARE** OF SKIPPING SCHOOL. I'D MEET WITH MY FRIENDS, GRAB A BURGER, WATCH A MOVIE.

TRY AND FAIL TO MAKE OUT WITH ROBERTA COEN.



RAIN OR SHINE, PLACE WAS ALWAYS PACKED. DURING THE HOLIDAYS IT WAS LIKE BEING IN A CAN OF SARDINES.

I MISS THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS. EVERYONE WAS ALL STRESSED OUT TRYING TO BUY GIFTS, BUT YOU FELT THIS SORT OF...



...MAGIC CHEER IN THE AIR.



LISTEN TO ME, GETTING ALL **NOSTALGIC** ON YOU.

I DON'T MIND.

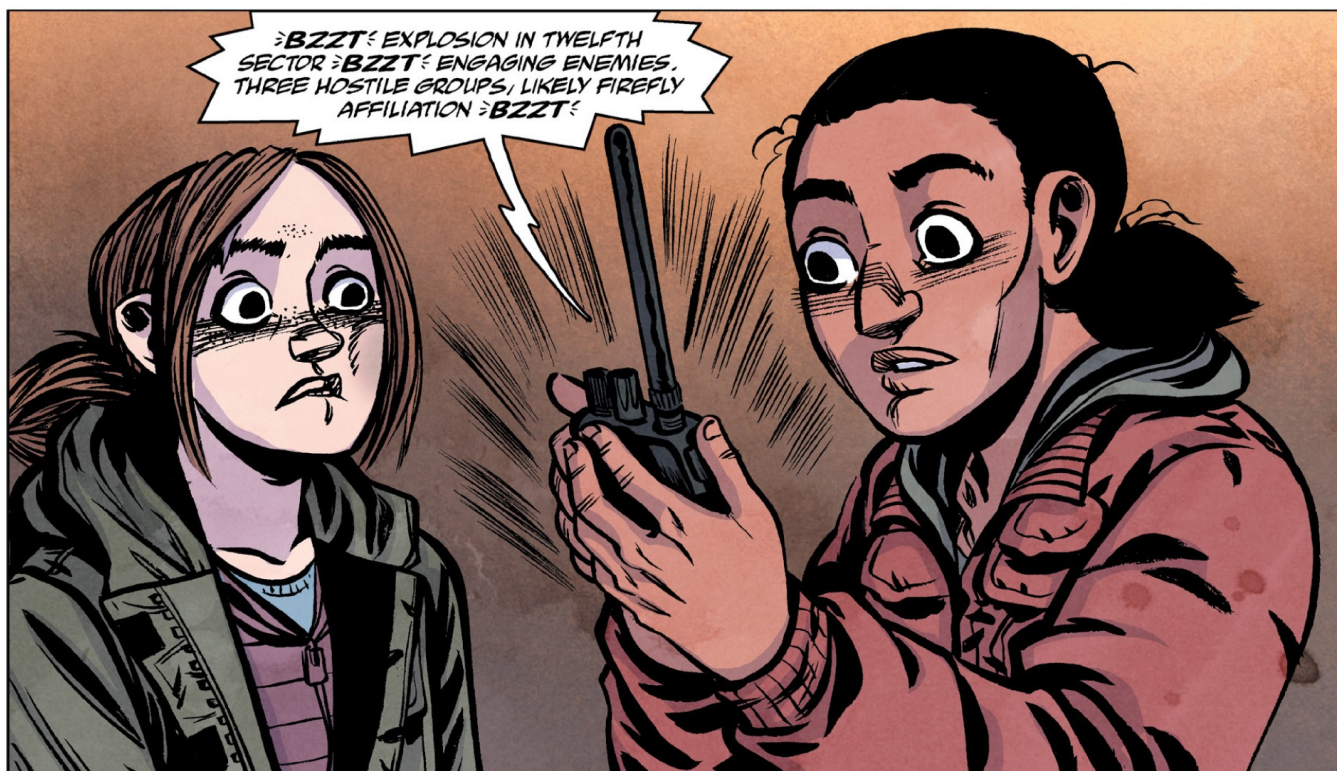














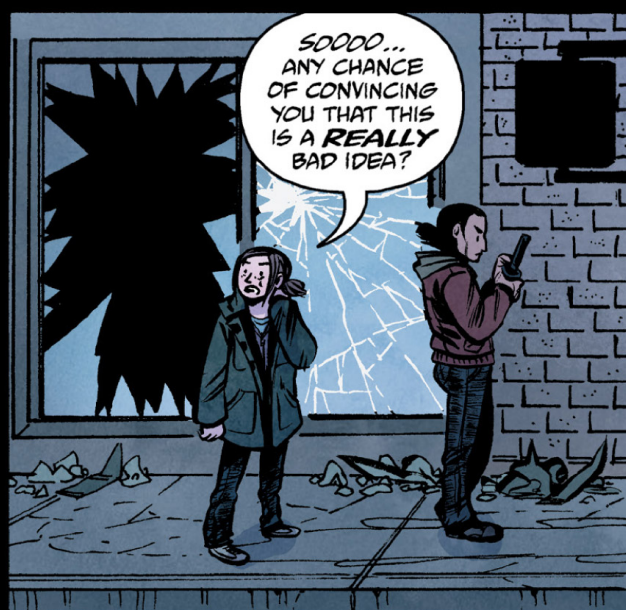




# CHAPTER THREE











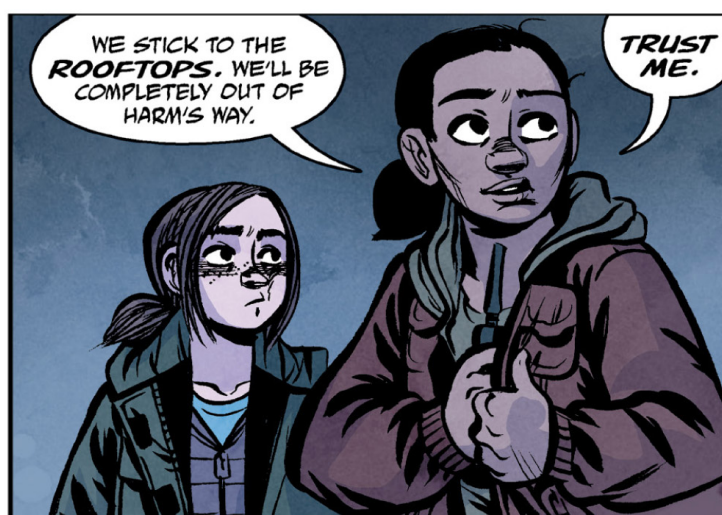
»BZZT«  
ENGAGING  
HOSTILES AT  
MACMILLAN AND  
JORDAN. SEND  
REINFORCEMENTS  
GODDAMN NOW!  
»BZZT«



MACMILLAN  
AND JORDAN--  
THAT'S ONLY A FEW  
BLOCKS FROM  
HERE.



RILEY--  
THESE PEOPLE  
HAVE **KILLED**  
**SOLDIERS**. YOU  
**SURE** YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING?



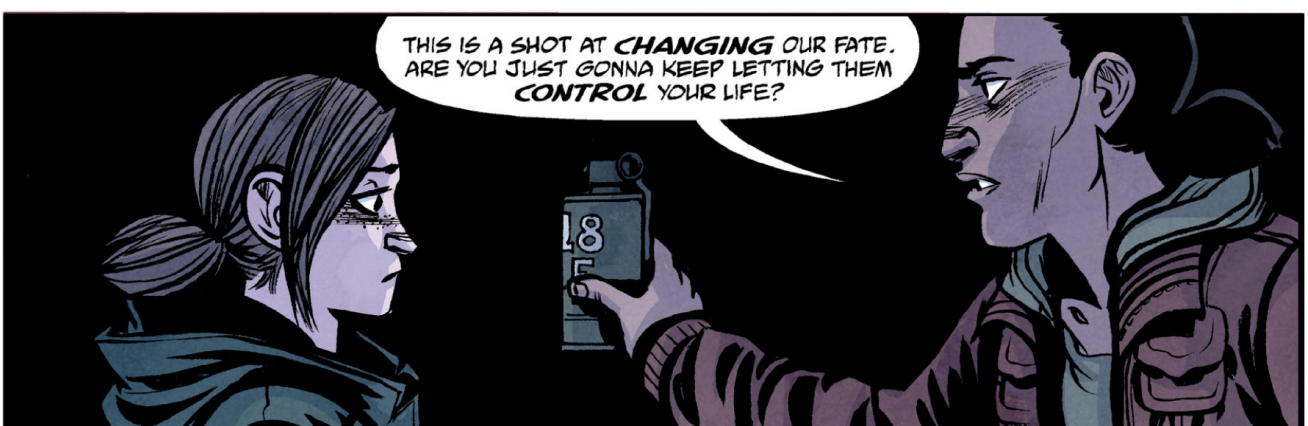
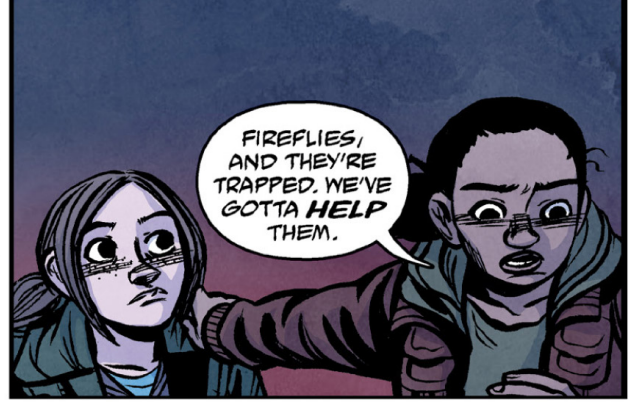
WE STICK TO THE  
**ROOFTOPS**. WE'LL BE  
COMPLETELY OUT OF  
HARM'S WAY.

**TRUST**  
**ME.**





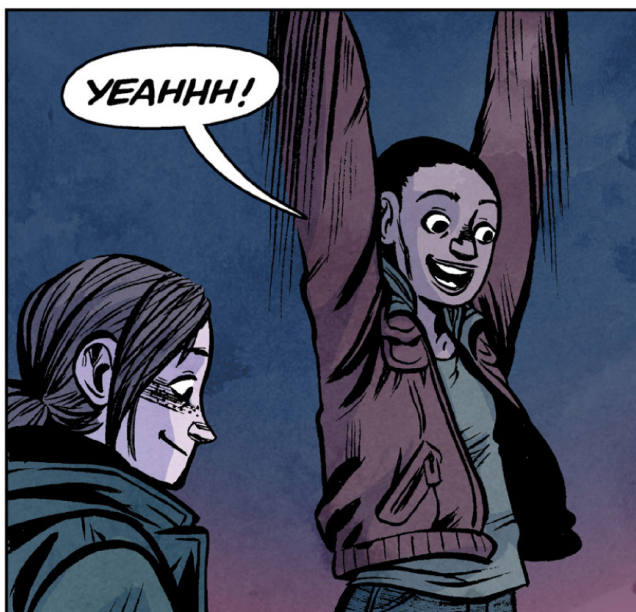








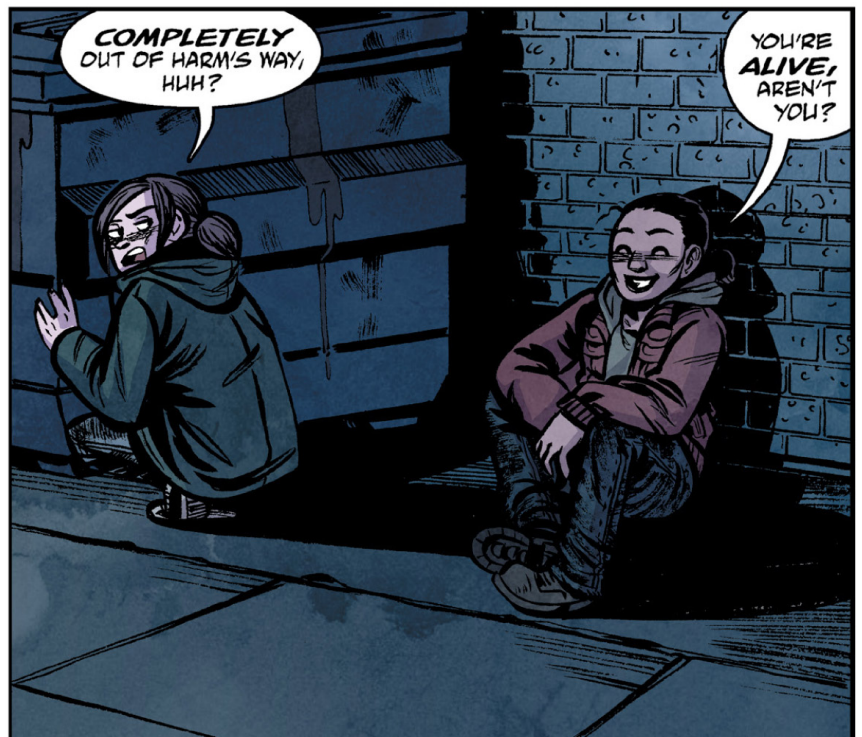




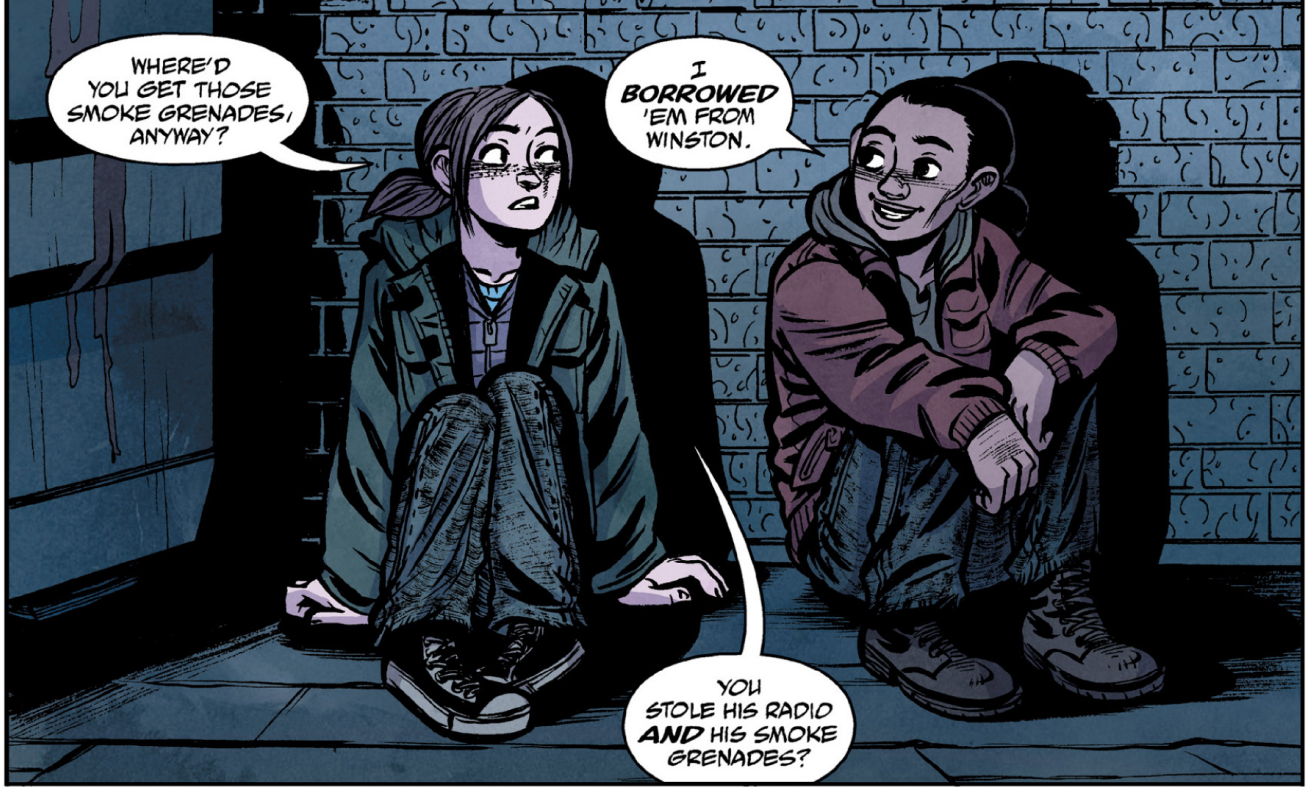








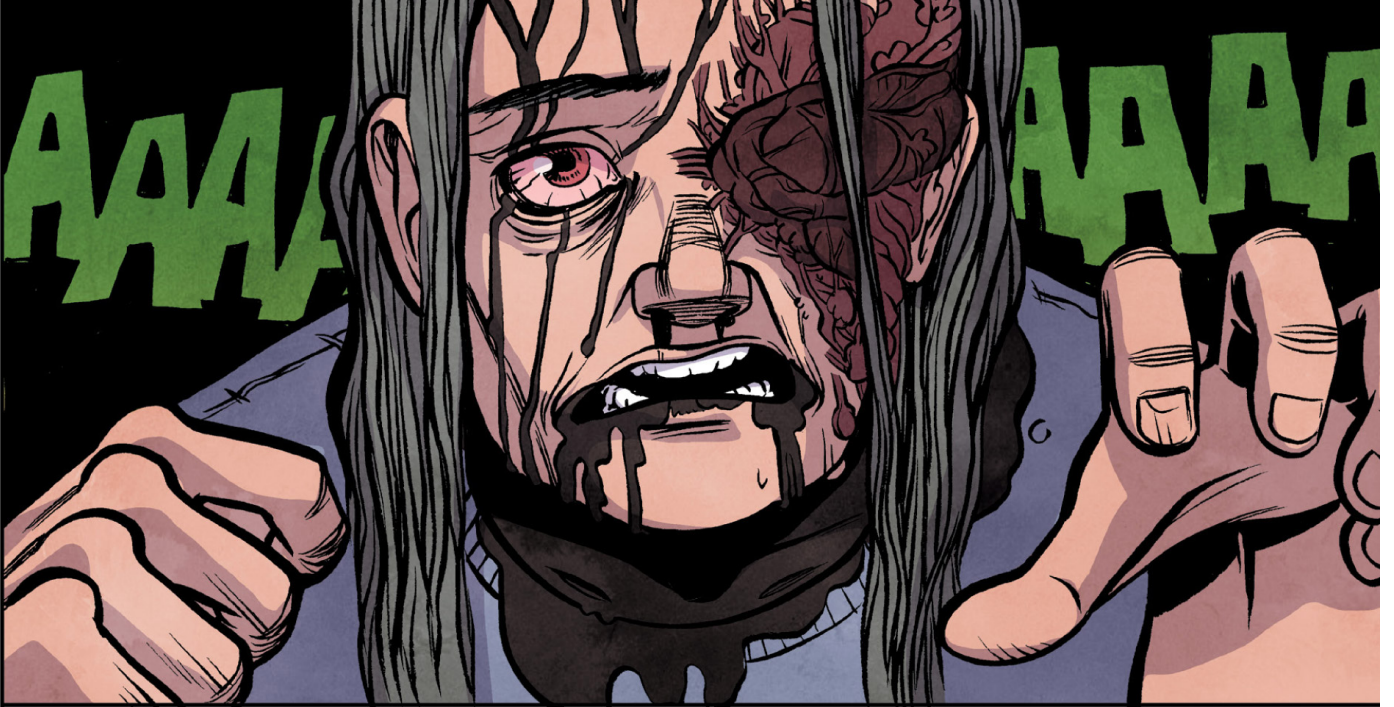








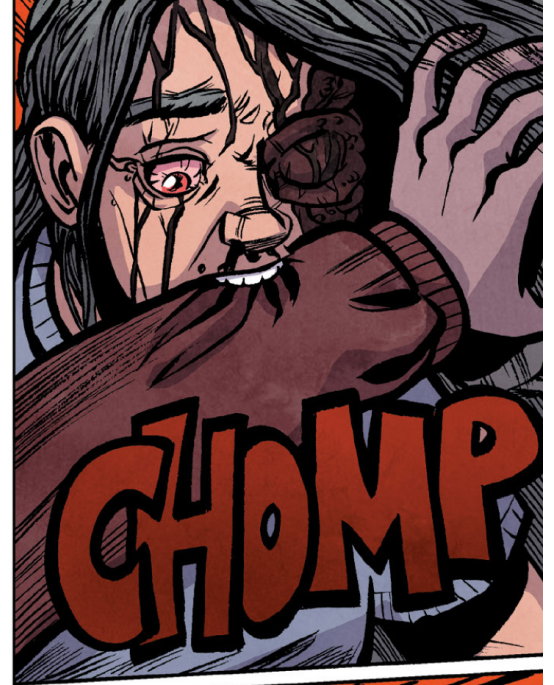




























LET ME SEE.

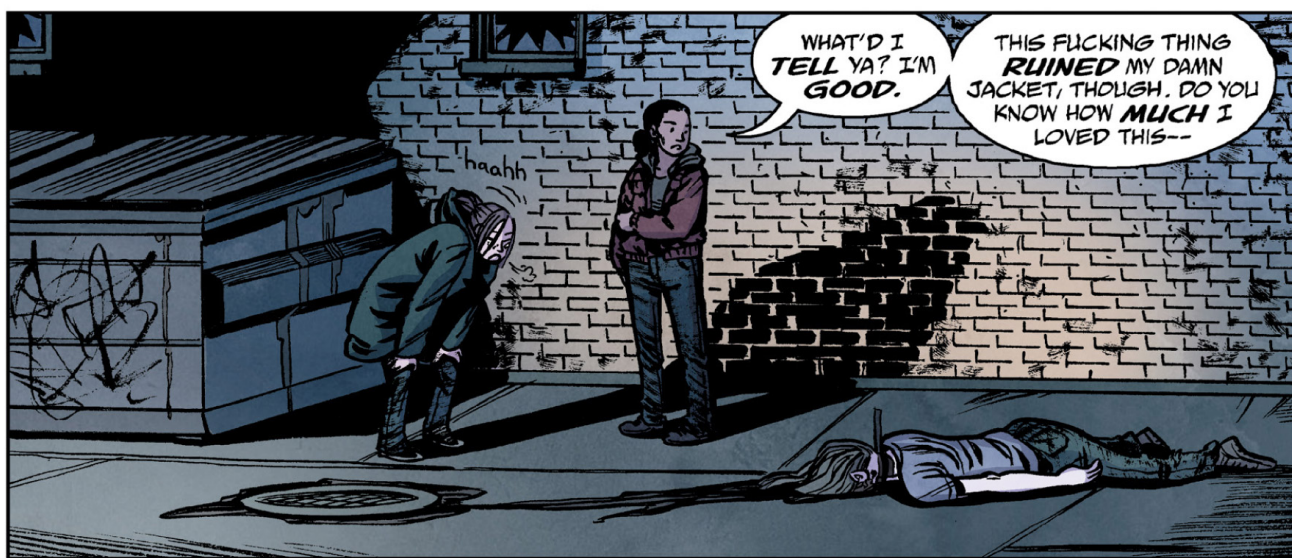
ELLIE, THERE'S **NOTHING**---



LET ME SEE!

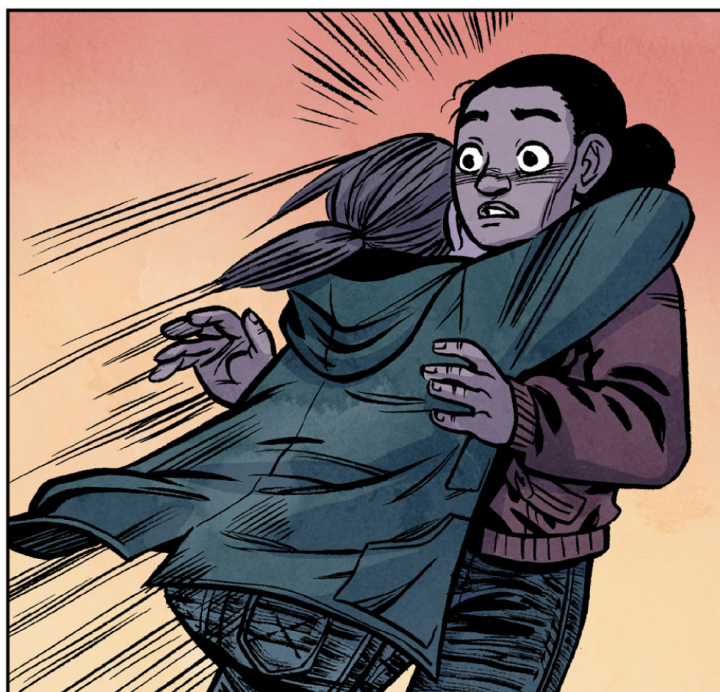


NO BITE.



WHAT'D I TELL YA? I'M **GOOD**.

THIS FUCKING THING **RUINED** MY DAMN JACKET, THOUGH. DO YOU KNOW HOW **MUCH** I LOVED THIS---

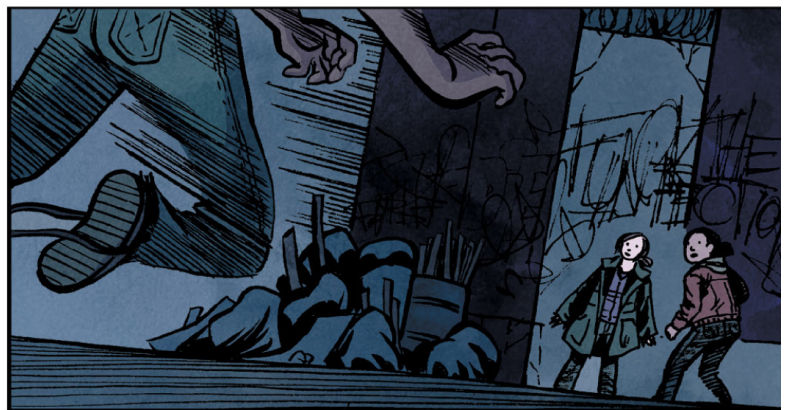
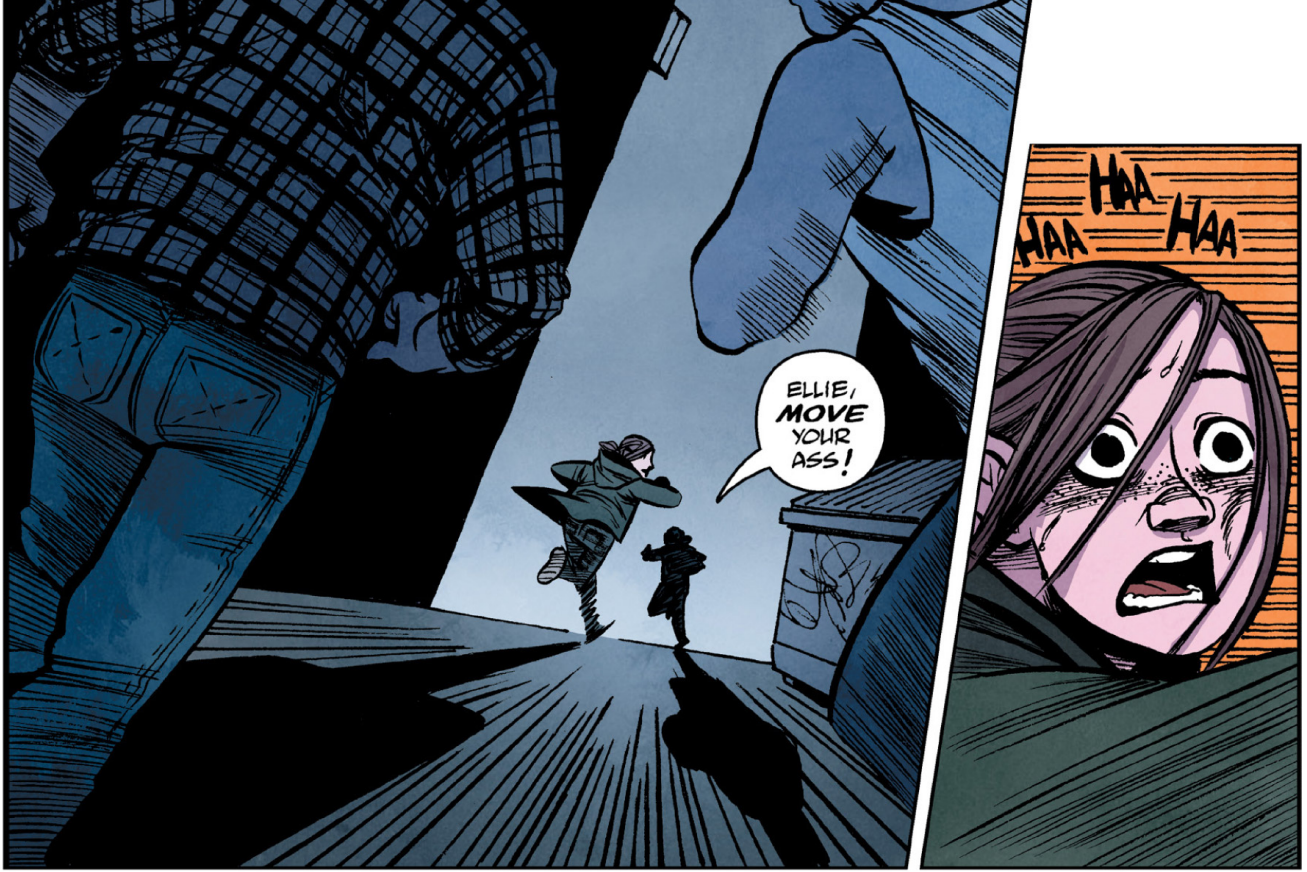


YEAH... I GUESS THAT **WAS** PRETTY SCARY, HUH?

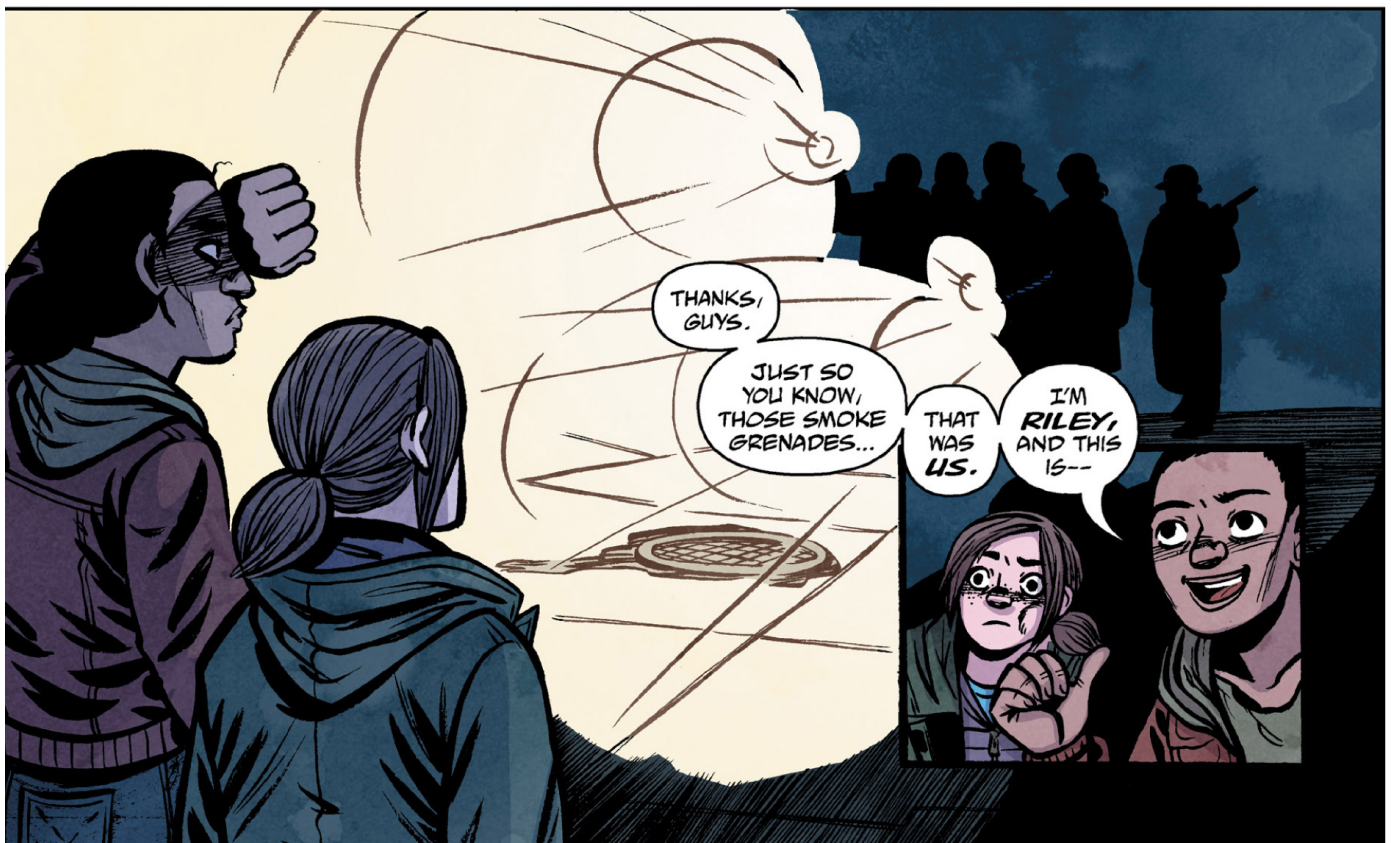






















# CHAPTER FOUR





THEY CAME  
OUT OF NOWHERE.  
WE WEREN'T  
PREPARED--

FUCK PREPARED,  
OUR FUCKING DATA WAS  
BAD! **THAT'S** WHY WE'RE  
IN THIS SHIT, NOT BECAUSE  
WE WEREN'T FUCKING  
**PREPARED!**

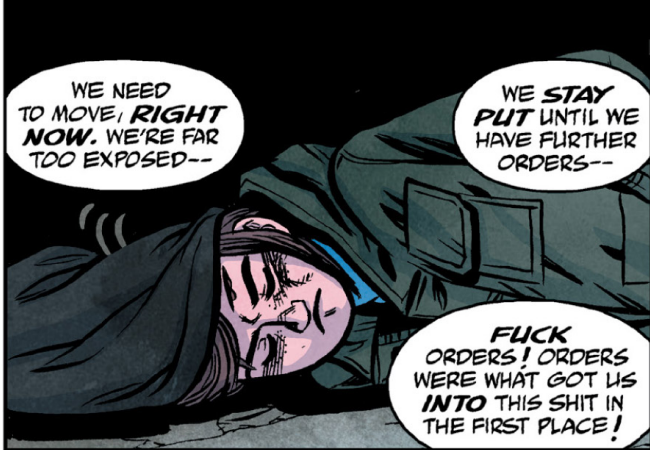
CALM DOWN.  
WE NEED TO **RE-**  
**ORGANIZE--**

DON'T  
TELL ME  
TO **CALM**  
**DOWN!**



WE ALL KNEW  
THE **RISKS**, BUT  
NO ONE EVER...GOD-  
DAMMIT. DO WE KNOW  
IF HE'LL **PULL**  
**THROUGH?**





WE NEED TO MOVE, **RIGHT NOW**. WE'RE FAR TOO EXPOSED--

WE **STAY PUT** UNTIL WE HAVE FURTHER ORDERS--

**FUCK** ORDERS! ORDERS WERE WHAT GOT US **INTO** THIS SHIT IN THE FIRST PLACE!



AND WHERE WERE **YOU**? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE BACKUP--

I WAS THERE! I BLEW THAT **STALKER'S** FUCKING HEAD OFF!



STOP IT. WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE'D BE SO MANY.

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO. **JESUS CHRIST!** I'M TRYING TO KEEP EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL--



IF YOU'D **LEARN** HOW TO **SHOOT STRAIGHT**--

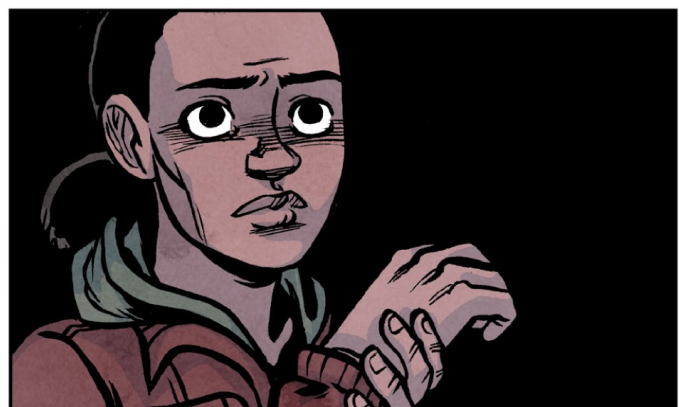


THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.













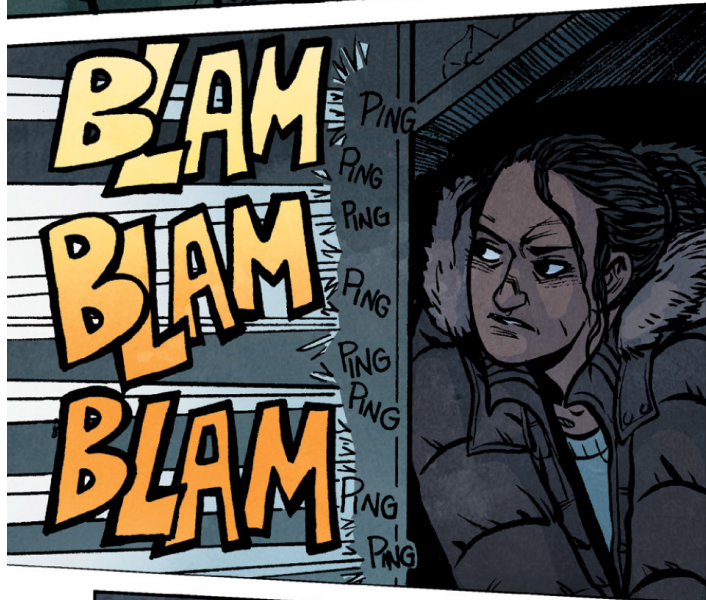












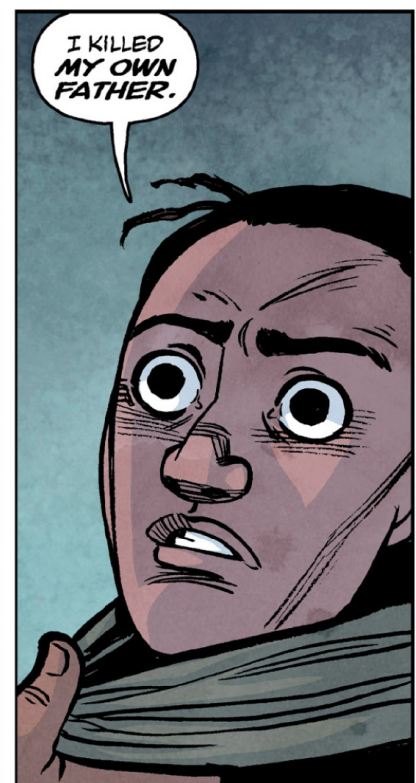




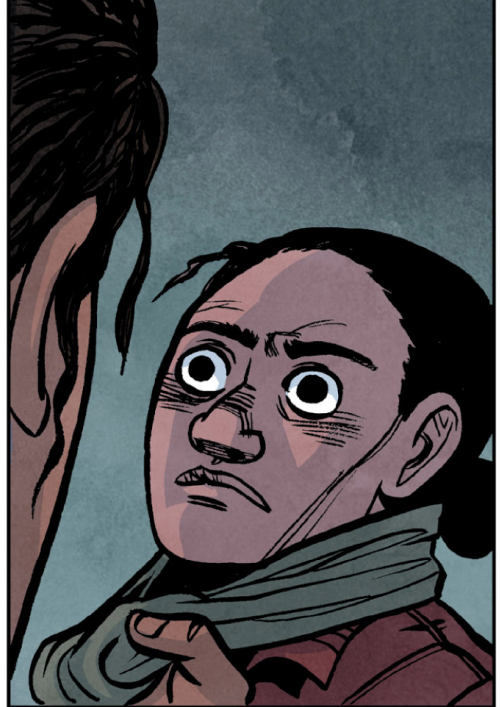








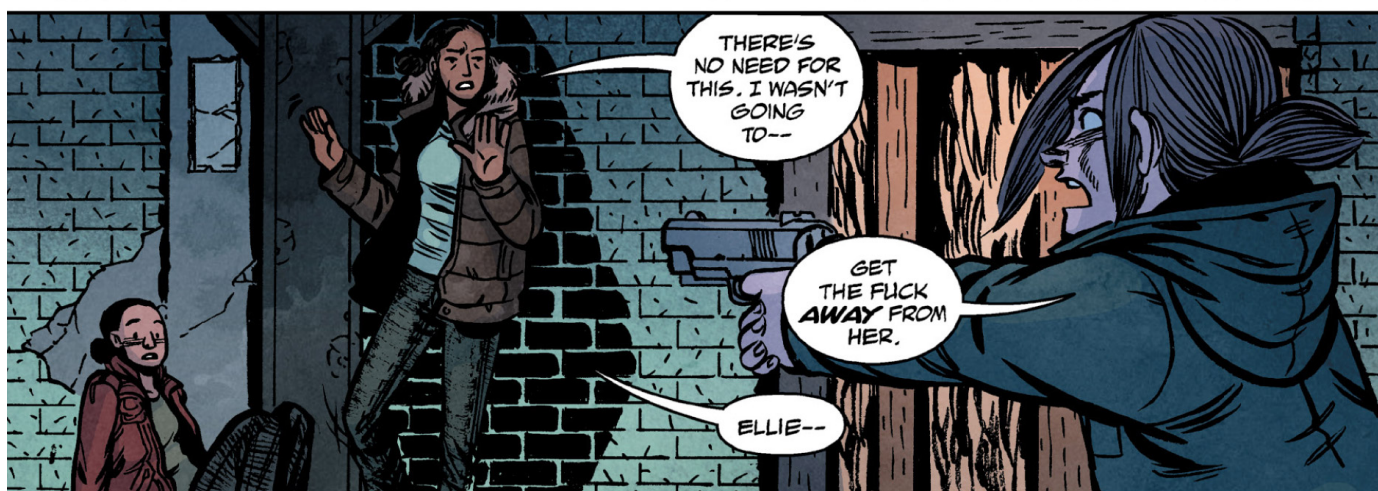




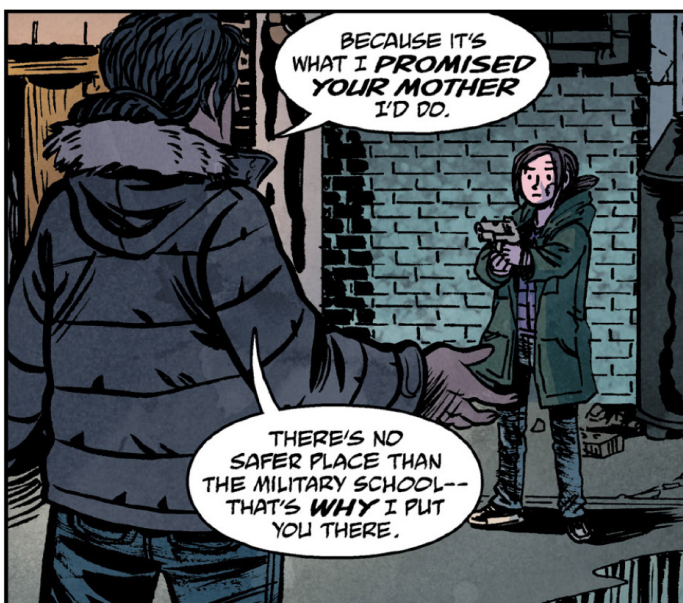




















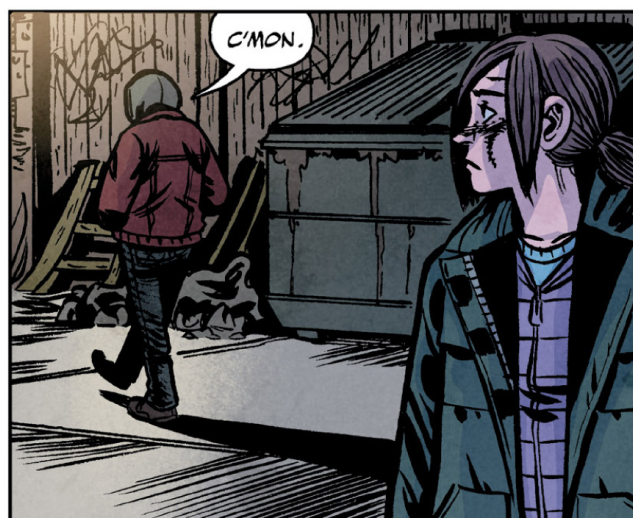




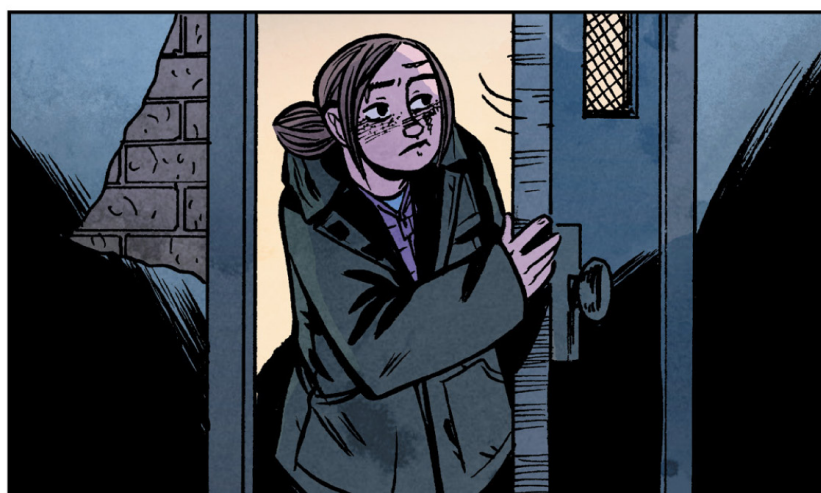
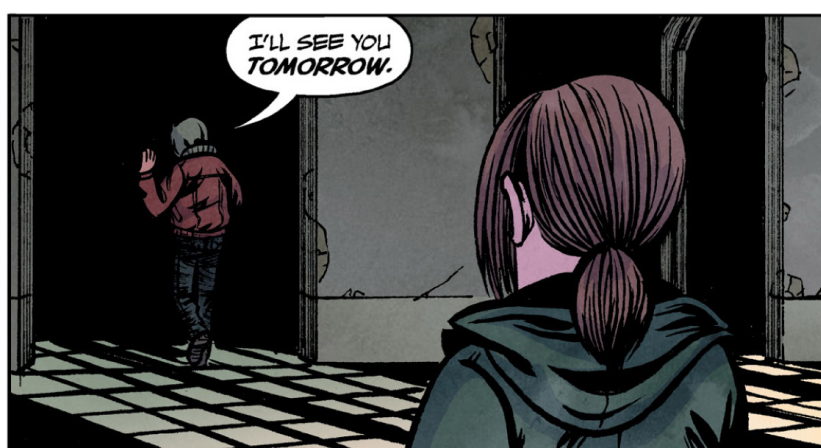
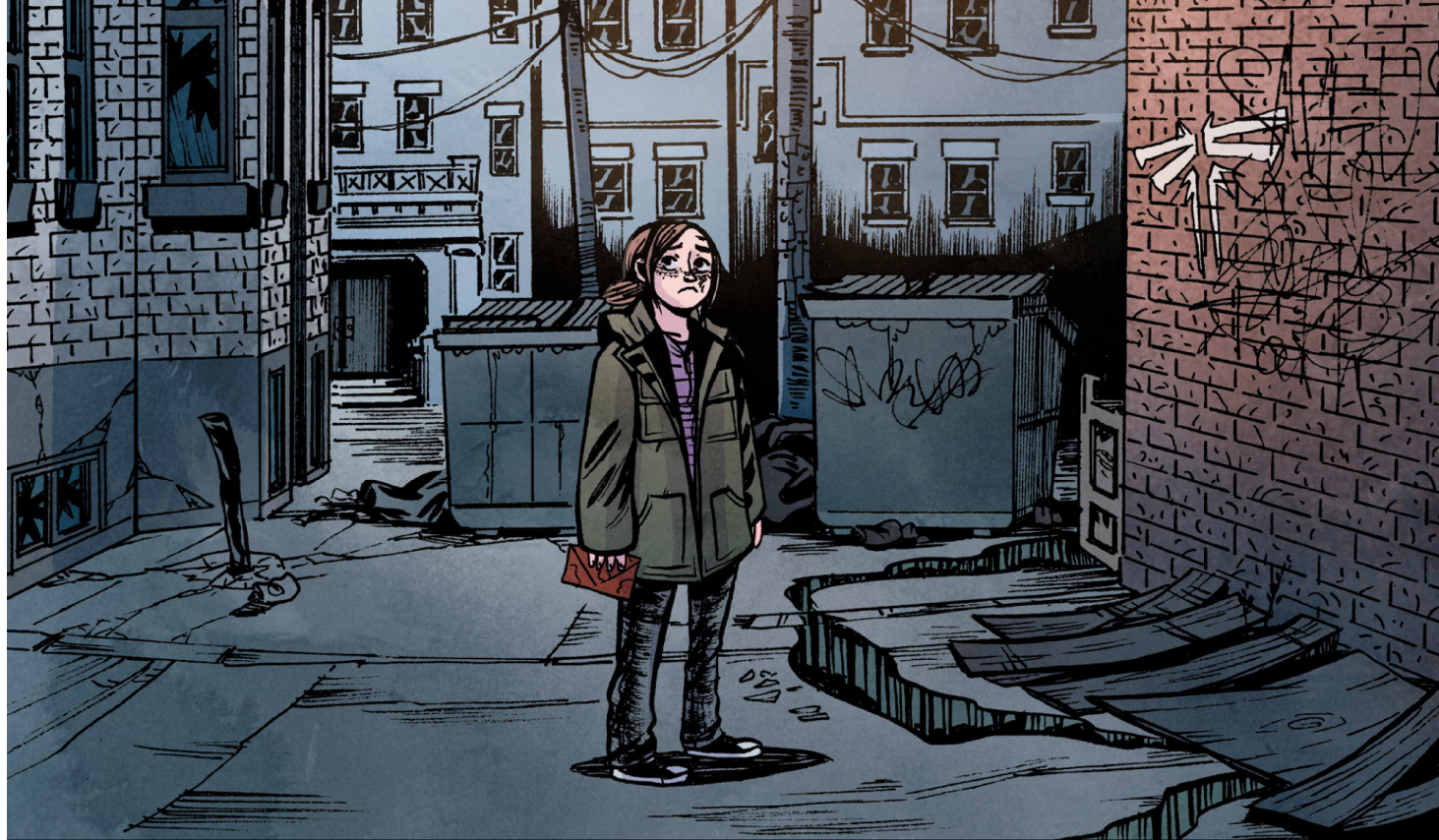
















END



# PREPARING FOR THE END

CONCEPT SKETCHES AND DESIGNS BY FAITH ERIN HICKS



In translating Ellie and Riley to the page, Faith tried a variety of outfits and attitudes for each.



**Right:** Faith's Angel Knives design for the arcade cabinet of *The Turning* made its way into *The Last of Us* itself and was used for a T-shirt.

**Below:** More- and less-casual approaches to Marlene.

**Opposite page, top:** One of Faith's early concept sketches, made to get a feel for the post-Infection world.

**Opposite page, bottom:** Faith's initial ideas for the image used to promote *American Dreams* (the final version appears on page 2 of this collection).









# THE LAST OF US™

## AMERICAN DREAMS

*From the creators of  
Uncharted*

"This is definitely one of, if not the, best video game adaptations ever told in comics." —*Comic Bastards*

"One quality that is so often overlooked is the need for a tie-in to exist and thrive on its own merits. This is a quality *The Last of Us: American Dreams* personifies more than any other video game tie-in I've read."

—IGN

"Faith Erin Hicks's art style is so perfect for this story. It's a children's cartoon with a gritty edge, a wonderfully apt way of depicting the hopeful mind of a young teenager as dark reality encroaches."

—Kotaku

**N**INETEEN YEARS AGO, a parasitic fungal outbreak killed the majority of the world's population. In one of the few remaining quarantine zones, thirteen-year-old Ellie begins her new life as a ward of a military boarding school, where a friendship with fellow student Riley leads to her first trip into the outside world. Beyond the walls of the regimented civil order they know, Ellie and Riley are soon confronted with the violent way of life of the insurgent group the Fireflies—and with the monstrous victims of infection!

Cowritten by the game's creative director Neil Druckmann and rising comics star Faith Erin Hicks, *American Dreams* is an action-packed coming-of-age tale and an essential story set in the world of the blockbuster new game *The Last of Us*!



DarkHorse.com  
TheLastOfUs.com



NAUGHTY DOG®